
THE
ARABIAN NIGHTS
ENTERTAINMENTS.

*FREELY TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINAL
TRANSLATION.*

VOL. I.

THE
ARABIAN NIGHTS
ENTERTAINMENTS

THE FIRST PART OF THE
ENTERTAINMENTS

1701

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THE
ARABIAN NIGHTS
ENTERTAINMENTS.

CONSISTING OF

One Thousand and One Stories, told by the SULTANESS of the
INDIES, to divert the SULTAN from a cruel Vow he had
made, to marry a Lady every Day, and have her put to
Death next Morning, to avenge himself for the
Disloyalty of his first SULTANESS.

CONTAINING

A familiar Account of the Customs, Manners and Religion of
the EASTERN NATIONS, the TARTARS,
PERSIANS, and INDIANS, &c.

FREELY TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINAL
TRANSLATION.

VOL. I.

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ARABIAN NIGHTS

ENTERTAINMENTS



PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD

LONDON

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LONDON

1801

ADVERTISEMENT.

THESE celebrated tales are too generally known and admired to receive new fame from the present editor's pen. It may, perhaps, be thought necessary for him to account for the very unusual liberty he has taken with them.

Having devoted his attention, as a bookseller, for the greater part of the past twenty years to the service of schools, his first idea was to select a portion of these tales, as a miscellany, which would not perhaps be unacceptable to those who superintend the education of youth. Mr. Knox, speaking of the Arabian Nights Entertainments, says, "they are well calculated

ADVERTISEMENT.

lated to kindle a flame (of genius) in the bosoms of boys."

But on looking over them for that purpose, the stile appeared to the editor to be dry, encumbered, and tautological. He was tempted, therefore, to present them as "tales twice told," and he hopes he shall not, by doing so, have vexed the patience of the reader.

The circumstances of the stories have *generally* been retained, perhaps a little too scrupulously. Wherever the editor hath ventured to deviate, he trusts it will be found to have been in favour of probability or of good morals.

C. D. P.

Aldgate, April 10,

1792.

ARABIAN NIGHTS

ENTERTAINMENTS.

ON the death of Schemseddin Mahomed, king of Persia, Schahriar, his eldest son succeeded to the throne. This prince, though hasty and violent in his temper, had many virtues. He had the truest affection for his younger brother, Schazenan; and on receiving the empire, instead of suffering him to languish in obscurity, he gave his beloved brother the power-

ful kingdom of great Tartary; and sent him to take possession of it, with a splendor suitable to the dignity of a mighty and independent prince.

After an absence of ten years, the royal brothers had a great desire to see each other; and the king of Tartary, at the earnest request of Schahriar, resolved to pay him a visit. He accordingly began his journey with a suitable equipage; but as the arranging so large a retinue prevented his advancing far the first day, he returned privately in the evening, to his palace, to take another farewell of his queen, whom he passionately loved. On entering her apartment suddenly, with the hope of giving her an agreeable surprise, he was shocked to find her sleeping in the arms of a slave. Overcome with rage, the king drew his sabre, and with one blow deprived them both of life. He then returned to his pavilion; and though oppressed with the keenest sorrow, he determined to pursue his journey.

When

When Shazenan arrived at the capital of Persia, the Sultan received him with open arms. But a deep melancholy had seized the unfortunate king of Tartary, which all the efforts of his brother could not overcome. In vain did the court of Persia exhibit all its splendor. Schazenan remained gloomy and insensible. On a sudden, without any apparent cause, this sadness disappeared, and he became again, all at once, the same sprightly companion and affectionate brother, whom Schahriar had so tenderly loved before their separation.

The Sultan of Persia rejoiced exceedingly at this alteration, but he was also much surprised at it. No cause appeared for the sorrow which had bowed down his brother; no reason could be conjectured, why it should so suddenly leave him. As soon therefore, as Schahriar found that the king was effectually recovered, he became importunate for an explanation of the mystery. Schazenan made no difficulty of acquainting his brother with the infidelity of his queen,

B 2

but

but entreated him to cease inquiring why he had shaken off the sorrow which her baseness had occasioned. The Sultan became alarmed; and judging by the reluctance of his brother, that he was somehow interested in the affair, he adjured the king of Tartary to hide nothing from him.

Schazenan was obliged to comply. He requested the Sultan would indulge him only till the next day, and would order the court to prepare for a grand hunting match, to take place then. Schahriar complied; and as further instructed by his brother, he left his train, and returned privately to the king of Tartary's apartments, where there was a closet which overlooked the gardens of the Sultaneſs. Schazenan had from thence accidentally observed ſeveral interviews between that lady and a favored gallant; and from thence the Sultan alſo became a witneſs of his own diſhonor, and of his wife's incontinence. It was this unhappy ſecret, ſaid Schazenan, which removed my deſpondency: as ſo amiable a man as my brother could not ſecure
to

to himself the possession of a woman, it convinced me that the whole sex are contaminated; and that it would be idle in me any longer to bewail so common a misfortune.

The Sultan instantly sacrificed his guilty wife and her paramour; and being overwhelmed with affliction, proposed to his brother that they should renounce the world, retire to some obscure hermitage, and finish their lives, without being further exposed to the treachery of women.

Schazenan did not think it prudent to oppose the first transports of his brother's rage and grief, he gave into his proposal with great apparent readiness; but exacted a promise from him, that he would return to his capital, and re-assume his throne, whenever they should meet with any one more unfortunate in female connections than themselves.

The princes, having disguised themselves, left the city secretly, and travelled till evening, when
B 3 they

they arrived at the sea side. At day break they were alarmed by a frightful noise from the sea, and had scarce time to climb up into a tree, when they perceived a large column arise in the midst of the water, and advance towards the shore. They presently found that it was one of those malignant Genii, who are enemies to mankind, and always doing them mischief. He was black, terrific, and appeared like a giant of prodigious stature; he carried on his head a great glass box, which shut, with four locks. Having laid his box down, he seated himself by it, and opened it; when there came out a beautiful lady, magnificently dressed. She sat down by the monster, who said to her, in a voice of tenderness, "my charming mistress, whom I stole on your wedding day, and have loved with so much constancy ever since, let me repose a while by you; I came hither on purpose to take rest." Having spoke thus, he laid down his huge head on the lady's knees, and fell asleep.

When the Genie's mistress perceived that he was so, she raised his head from her lap, and laid it

it on the earth. She then got up, and went to the glass chest, and taking out a large string of rings, she counted them over, and examined them with much attention, then turning toward the Genie, who was still asleep, she exclaimed aloud, "Fool! to think that jealousy and restraint can preserve a mistress; notwithstanding thy vigilance, I find by these rings, every one of which I have received from a different gallant, that I have had fourscore and eighteen lovers since I have been in thy power!

The princes continued in the tree till the Genie awoke, who having replaced the lady in the chest, and locked it up, took it again on his head, and returned into the sea. When he had been gone a considerable time they descended; and the Sultan, being convinced that the Genie was more unfortunate than himself, yielded to the persuasions of his brother, returned to his capital, and resumed his government. After some time, the King of Tartary chusing to return home, the Sultan dismissed him with every

mark of fraternal love, and on his departure said to him, "I have at length fallen upon a method to preserve the chastity of a wife: I will not now, added he, explain myself; you will, no doubt, shortly hear of it; and I question not but you will follow my example."

Soon after the departure of Schazenan, the Sultan chose the daughter of one of his nobles for his bride, the nuptial ceremony was performed; the lady passed the night with her royal bridegroom; and in the morning the grand Vizier received her from his hands, with orders to put her to death immediately. Every night now saw a new bride conducted to the Sultan's bed, and every morning beheld her a victim to his jealousy; the consternation was universal, there was no parent who had a young and beautiful daughter, but trembled for her life; and the Sultan, instead of receiving, as before, the blessings of his people, became the object of their execrations.

The

The implicit obedience which good Mussulmen owe to the Commander of the Faithful, had as yet restrained the inhabitants of Bagdad from rebellion, nor had they taken any measures to preserve their children from so new a calamity; when the beauteous and accomplished Scheherazade, daughter of the grand Vizier, undertook to deliver them from it, by becoming the destined bride. Her father was astonished when she declared her design. He used every argument, and entreaty, to persuade her from it, and agreeable to the custom of the east, he endeavoured to enforce his reasoning by the following apologue.

THE OX, THE ASS, AND THE FARMER.

THERE lived in a certain country a very wealthy farmer, whose lands were cultivated with the greatest care, and abounded with all sorts of cattle and poultry. It so happened that he had an opportunity to render an essential service to a
very

very powerful Genie; who in return, at the farmer's request, endowed him with the faculty of understanding the language of all animals; but on this express condition; that he should never interpret it to any one, on pain of death.

Some time after this event, the farmer was walking leisurely in his yard, when he heard the following conversation between an ox and an ass. 'Sprightly, said the ox, how much do I envy your condition! you have no labour, except now and then to carry our master little journeys; in return for which you are well fed with the best corn, carefully cleaned, and lodged in fresh straw every night: While I, who work from day-light till dark, and am urged by the blows of the ploughman, to toil almost beyond my strength, when my hard task is performed, am scantily supplied with coarse food, and pass the night on the common.'

'Those, replied the ass, who call you a foolish beast are not much mistaken. Why do you
not

not with all that strength, exert a little courage, and resist such ill treatment? If they give you bad corn, smell at it, and leave it; and when they are about to fasten you to the plough, bellow aloud, stamp with your foot, and even strike them with your horns. Be assured a little resolution will soon procure you better treatment.'

The farmer having heard this conversation, was not long in coming to a resolution. The next morning the labourer found the ox restive, when he attempted to yoke him; on which, by his master's orders, he left him, and putting the collar on the ass, he fixed him to the plough, and with many blows compelled him to perform the work the ox should have done. Nor was this all: for when he returned at night, more dead than alive, he found no straw to lie on; and instead of a plentiful supply of the best oats, there was nothing in his manger, but a handful of coarse beans, ill cleansed, which even his extreme hunger could scarcely prevail with him to eat.

The

The ox, who had rested the whole day, and been fed with the provender usually given to his companion, received him on his return with many compliments, and avowals of obligation. To these ceremonies the ass had no relish; without answering a word he threw himself on the ground; and, in thought, began to upbraid his own folly, ‘was ever such imprudence as mine?’ said he within himself: how has a silly officiousness undone me! what had I to wish for, that I did not enjoy? when did sorrow ever approach me? all this happiness I have deservedly lost, by meddling with that which did not concern me.”

The Grand Vizier applied the obvious moral to Scheherazade. But finding she persisted, he became angry, “if you will continue thus obstinate, said he, you will oblige me to treat you in the same manner the farmer did his wife in the sequel of the story.”

‘The farmer hearing that the ass was in bad plight, was curious to know what would pass between

between him and the ox. Accordingly, after supper, he took a walk with his wife into the yard, when he heard the sufferer say to his companion, 'Comrade, what do you intend to do to-morrow, when the labourer brings your meat?' do! my best friend, replied the ox, why I will carefully attend to your instructions: if my corn is not of the very best quality, I will not deign to touch it; and if he presumes to lay a halter on me, I will not fail to knock him down.

I fancy, replied the ass, you will think it prudent to alter that resolution, when I relate to you what I heard our master say to the labourer just now. The ass having thus excited the attention and fear of the ox, told him very gravely, that the farmer had ordered his servant, if the ox continued restive, to knock him on the head the day following, and distribute his flesh among the poor. The ox, alarmed at this story, bellowed aloud for fear, and vowed submission to the labourer: which resolution the ass was forward to commend.

The

The farmer was so pleased with the cunning of the ass, and the terrors of the ox, that he burst into an immoderate fit of laughter. His wife, who saw no reason for this extraordinary mirth, was curious to know the cause of it. He tried to evade her question; but the more he sought to divert her attention, the more earnest she became in her enquiry; at length, tired with her importunity, he told her that the cause of his laughing must continue a secret; you will not, I suppose, added he, urge me any further, when I acquaint you, that my revealing it would certainly cost me my life.

This assertion, which she affected not to believe, made the wife redouble her importunities; the farmer, however, continued resolute; and suffered her to pass the night in tears, without much concern. But when he found next day, that the same obstinate desire of the fatal information continued, he was exceedingly distressed. He called in the assistance of his neighbours and relations, who in vain represented to her the un-

reasonableness of her request. She persisted; and the unhappy farmer was on the point of gratifying her, at the expence of his life, when an incident determined him to alter his intention.

Going out of his door, he heard his faithful dog relating, with concern, the story of his embarrassment to a cock, who heard it with much contempt, 'a pretty fellow truly, replied the cock, is this master of ours, who cannot manage one wife, when I govern fifty! let him take a good crab stick, and use it properly; I will engage she will soon dismiss her impertinent curiosity.' The honest farmer took the hint; his wife returned to her duty; and you, my daughter, if treated in the same manner, would no doubt be as conformable to my desires, and forego so desperate an experiment.

Notwithstanding this and every other method taken to shake her determination, Scheherazade continued unmoved; and the Grand Vizier was obliged to announce to his sovereign the ambition

tion of his daughter. The Sultan heard him with surprise; after pausing for a few moments, he said to him, with an air of severity, 'I give you opportunity to recall this rash offer; if you persist in it, I will receive Scheherazade as my wife; but presume not to hope that I will violate my vow in her favor; on the contrary, your own life, as well as hers, shall be forfeited, if you hesitate for a moment to execute my usual orders.' Even this menace had no effect on the young lady; and the unhappy father was compelled to lead his darling child to the arms of his sovereign, with a full assurance of being obliged to deprive her of life with his own hand, the following morning.

When Scheherazade was introduced to the Sultan, he was struck with her beauty, and modest sensibility. Perceiving her in tears, he for a moment forgot his barbarous resolution, and endeavoured to comfort her. The lovely Sultaneß, pleased to see she had made an impression on his savage heart, seized that moment to request that her sister Dinarzade might be admitted

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to her next morning, an hour before day, to take her last farewell. The Sultan readily complied; and notice being sent to her sister accordingly, the charming Scheherazade suffered herself to be conducted to the fatal couch, and became a devoted bride to the cruel Schahriar.

At the appointed hour, Dinarzade was admitted to the nuptial chamber; when she made the strange request, that in the little time which remained, before they were to part for ever, the Sultaness would relate to her one of those many entertaining stories she had read; the Sultan, wondering at so singular a request, consented, at the desire of his bride, and even expressed a wish to hear stories which must be singular indeed to be asked for at such a moment. Scheherazade, encouraged by this wish, began thus:

THE MERCHANT AND THE GENIE.

SIR,

There was formerly a merchant, whose extensive traffic obliged him to travel to many places ; in one of which journies, finding himself much incommoded by the heat of the day, he alighted from his horse, and sat down in a shady grove ; when taking some dates out of his portmanteau, he eat them, throwing the shells on each side of him. When he had done eating, being a good mussulman, he washed his hands and feet, at an adjoining rivulet, and said his prayers. While he was yet on his knees, a monstrous Genie, all white with age, advanced towards him, with a scymitar in his hand ; and uttering a frightful cry, exclaimed, ‘ rise up, that I may kill thee, as thou hast killed my son.’ The merchant, terrified as much at his appearance, as at his threats, protested his innocence. ‘ How,’ exclaimed the Genie,

Genie, did you not, even now, throw about the shells of your dates ? my son was passing by, and you threw one of them into his eye, which killed him ; therefore I must kill thee,' saying which, he took the merchant by the arm, threw him on the ground, and lifted up the scymitar to cut off his head.

In this imminent danger, the merchant earnestly entreated permission to return home, and settle his affairs, and to take leave of his family. What time do you require, said the Genie ? ' I ask a year, replied the merchant ; I swear by Allah, that this day twelve month, I will return under these trees, to put myself into your hands.' Upon this the Genie disappeared.

The merchant returned home disconsolate. He employed the allotted time in properly regulating his affairs, and when it was near expired, he took a sorrowful leave of his family, and arrived at the place where he had promised to meet the Genie. While he was waiting for

his dreaded approach, he saw two old men coming towards him from different quarters, the first leading a bitch, the second two black dogs.

They approached the trees where the unfortunate merchant was sitting, when one of them said to him, 'Brother, why do you stay in this place? Do you not know that a number of evil spirits resort to it, and that it is by no means safe to continue here?' Alas! said the merchant, I know that but too well; he then related his story to the old men; who having heard it, agreed to continue with him till the Genie should appear.

In a little time they perceived a thick vapour advancing towards them, which vanishing all at once, discovered the Genie. Without noticing the old men, he took the merchant by the arm, saying, 'rise, that I may kill thee as thou didst kill my son.' The merchant filled the air with his cries; and the old men, prostrating themselves on the ground, entreated for him.

The

The Genie, with some difficulty, was persuaded to listen to their expostulations, and at length to agree, that if their several adventures were more surprising than that of the merchant, he would relent, and set him at liberty.

Day advancing, the Sultan arose, and the Vizier, in much affliction, entered into his presence, in full expectation of receiving the usual fatal orders; but the Sultan was so much taken with the beauty and accomplishments of his lady; and his curiosity was so much excited by the interesting story she had began, that he became irresolute respecting his vow; and talking to his trembling Vizier on other affairs, he left him also in suspense as to the fate of his beloved daughter.

The next morning Scheherazade resumed her narrative, with the history of

THE OLD MAN AND THE BITCH.

I married, began the first old man, in my early life, a cousin, with whom I lived more than twenty years, in much happiness. The only thing that abated it was, that we had no children. The desire of posterity induced me to buy a slave, by whom I shortly had a son. I still lived in great harmony with my wife, who always treated the slave kindly, and appeared to be very fond of my boy. Some years after his birth, I was obliged to go a long journey, and on my return, my wife told me that my son, and my slave, were both dead. I lamented their loss very much; but the feast of Bairam approaching, I thought it my duty to overcome my sorrow, and prepare for the holy festival.

Accord-

Accordingly I gave orders to my farmer, to bring up one of the fattest cows to sacrifice at the commencement of the solemnity. He obeyed; but when the cow was brought to me, she bellowed piteously, and I could perceive tears run from her eyes. Struck with so singular a spectacle, and moved, I knew not how; I was about to send the cow back, and order another, when my wife opposed any exchange with great vehemence. I suffered myself to be prevailed on; and though I could not kill her myself, I ordered my farmer to do so, who obeyed me. When she was slain, it was found, notwithstanding her plump appearance, that she was mere skin and bone; and wholly unfit for the intended sacrifice.

I immediately sent for another fat beast; when the farmer brought a calf, whose behaviour was still more extraordinary. He broke the cord, ran to me, and fell at my feet. I determined to listen to the impulse I felt in favour of this calf, and accordingly ordered him to be taken back; although my wife interfered with still greater eagerness, and insisted that he should be slaughtered.

The day following my father desired to speak with me alone. He took me to his own habitation, and introduced me to his daughter: by her I was informed, that during my journey, my wife had learnt the black art; and by that means had transformed my slave into the cow, we had unfortunately slaughtered the day before; and my son, into the calf, which had so narrowly escaped.

I leave you to judge, powerful Genie, how much I was distressed at this account. But not doubting my informer was able to restore my son, as she had the skill to discover his situation, I very earnestly besought her assistance. On two conditions, replied she, I will restore him. First, that you give him me for a husband; and secondly, that you permit me to punish, as she deserves, the wicked enchantress, who has transformed him. I consented; she then pronounced certain words, and sprinkling my son with water, he resumed his shape. He joyfully married his fair benefactress; who changed my wicked wife into the bitch you see here.

THE

THE STORY OF THE OLD MAN, WITH THE
TWO BLACK DOGS.

‘Prince of Genies, said the second old man, these dogs and myself are brothers. On the death of our father, we divided his substance among us, and each received a thousand sequins. One of my brothers resolving to travel, laid out his money in goods, suited to the country he intended to visit, and departed.

After a year’s absence he returned in great distress, having lost all his effects. Mean time by industry, I had acquired an additional thousand sequins, which I readily gave him. My other brother, not disheartened by the ill success of the first, pursued the same measures; very shortly he also returned entirely ruined. To him also I gave another thousand sequins; we then agreed to remain at home, and pursue our business carefully, without seeking further adventures.

Some

Some years afterwards, both my brothers besought me to join with them in a trading voyage. Their importunity prevailed; I disposed of my stock, which now produced me six thousand sequins, half of which I buried in a corner of the house, and gave each of my brothers a thousand of the remainder. We arrived safely at our destined port, where we sold our adventures to good profit.

When we were nearly ready to return, I met on the banks of the sea, a lady, handsome but poorly clad, who very earnestly persuaded me to marry her. I consented; and having taken her on board the vessel, we set sail; my wife proved to be possessed of so many good qualities, that I became every day more fond of her. My unworthy brothers, envying my superior good fortune, seized us both while asleep, and threw us into the sea.

But little did these bad men imagine the punishment that awaited their cruelty and ingratitude, my
wife

wife was a fairy, she conveyed me home, and conducted the vessel, which had my goods on board, safe into port. Before I knew of its arrival, two black dogs came crouching to me in the most submissive manner. 'These, said the fairy, are your brothers—thus is their wickedness requited; and it is one part of their punishment, that in this degraded state, they must look for support and protection to the brother they so basely betrayed.'

The Genie thought these adventures so singular, that he remitted the punishment of the merchant, and disappeared. And the merchant, after suitably thanking his benefactors, returned home again with joy to his family.

The Sultan was delighted with these stories. He requested Scheherazade to proceed next night to another: and going into the Divan, the Vizier, his Family, the Court, and the people in general, were overjoyed to find that he gave no orders to put the beautiful Sultaneſs to death.

The STORY of the FISHERMAN.

THERE was a fisherman, who when young, had indiscreetly vowed, not to cast his net above four times a day. This vow he religiously observed; though when he came to have a numerous family, he had often occasion to regret his having made it.

One morning having thrown his net three times without the least success, he was almost wild with grief. Another cast only remained, which he determined to take with particular attention. Having thrown it, instead of fish, he drew up only a small vessel of copper with a lead-
en

en seal to it. This seal he eagerly removed, in hopes of finding something valuable; but to his great mortification, the casket was empty. He threw it on the ground, and continued to eye it, in a kind of despair, when he perceived a thick smoke to come out of it, which mounted to the clouds, and extending itself along the sea and the shore, formed a great mist. When the smoke was all out of the vessel, it collected itself into one body, which formed an enormous Genie.

At the sight of so terrible a figure, the fisherman would have fled, but was too much terrified. ‘Solomon, Solomon, the great prophet! exclaimed the Genie, pardon, pardon, pardon; I never more will oppose your will!’ The fisherman, hearing this, took courage, and said, ‘thou proud spirit, what is it that thou talkest? it is 1800 years ago since the prophet Solomon died! tell me your history, and how you came to be shut up in that vessel.’

The Genie, turning to his deliverer, with a
fierce

fierce look, said, 'thou art very bold to call me a proud spirit. Speak to me more civilly before I kill thee.' 'What, replied the fisherman, would you kill me for setting you at liberty? Is that the way you reward the service I have done you?' 'I can't treat you otherwise, replied the Genie; and that you may be convinced of it, listen to my story:—I am one of those rebellious spirits, who opposed themselves to the will of Heaven. The other Genies owned Solomon the great prophet, and submitted to him. Sacar and I only resisted. That potent monarch caused me to be seized, and brought by force before his throne; when, as I daringly persisted in my disobedience, he shut me up in this copper vessel; and that I might not escape, he himself stamped his seal, with the great name of God engraven on it, upon this leaden cover; and ordered it to be cast into the midst of the sea.'

'During the first century of my imprisonment, I swore that if any one would deliver me, I would make him immensely rich. During the second,

I vowed that I would open all the treasures of the earth to any one who should set me free. In the third, I promised to make my deliverer a mighty prince, and to be always his attendant spirit. Many centuries past over, and I continually increased my promises to him who should render me so essential a service; but all in vain: no one was so lucky as to find the coffer, and by opening it, obtain the rewards I had bound myself to bestow. At last, enraged, and tired with so long a confinement, I vowed, that if any one should set me at liberty, I would kill him without mercy; therefore, as you have this day delivered me, prepare yourself to die.'

This discourse terrified the poor fisherman beyond measure; but as necessity is the parent of ingenuity, he addressed the Genie thus: 'If it must be so, I submit; but before I die, I conjure you, by the great name which was engraven on the seal of the prophet Solomon, that you grant me one request, in return for the service I have done you; which you have obliged yourself to
repay

repay so hardly.' The Genie trembled at the adjuration, and answered hastily, 'ask what thou wilt, but quickly.'

'I cannot believe, said the fisherman, that you was really confined in that vessel: it will not hold one of your feet; I adjure you therefore, by the oath you have taken, to enter into it again, that I may be convinced; and acquit you, before I die, of ingratitude and murder.'

The body of the Genie instantly dissolved, and changing into a mist, extended itself as before. At last it began to enter the vessel, which it continued to do, by a slow and equal motion, till nothing was left out; and immediately a voice came forth, which said, 'well, incredulous fellow! I am all in the vessel now! are you satisfied?'

The fisherman instantly shut down the cover; 'now, Genie, said he, it is thy turn to entreat in vain.—I will return thee to the sea whence I

took thee, and will erect a monument to caution other fishermen, if they chance to meet with thee, that they may be aware of such a wicked Genie as thou art, who hast sworn to kill thy deliverer! The Genie endeavoured with his utmost force to get out of the vessel again; but the seal of Solomon restrained him. Dissembling therefore his anger, he addressed the fisherman in a more pleasant tone; begged him once more to remove the cover, and promised to reward him to his full satisfaction. 'Thou art a traitor, replied the fisherman, and I should deserve to lose my life, if I was so foolish as to trust thee. No doubt you would use me as the Grecian King did the Physician Douban. 'Tis a story I have a mind to tell thee, before I return thee to the faithless element, in which I found thee.'

THE STORY OF THE GRECIAN KING AND
THE PHYSICIAN DOUBAN.

There was a king of Greece, who was sorely afflicted with a grievous leprosy. His physicians had exerted all their art in vain; his case was declared hopeless, and he expected every day to sink under the loathsome disease which oppressed him. At this time, there came to his court a strange physician, named Douban, who after examining the patient, asserted, that so far from the King being incurable, he would undertake to restore his health, without either inward potions, or outward applications. This extraordinary proposal was readily accepted. The physician prepared a racket, and besought the King to play at tennis with it. 'I have lodged, said he, certain drugs in the handle, which is hollow, when these are heated, they will penetrate your Majesty's whole frame: leave off then; bathe, and

and retire to rest; and to-morrow you will find yourself perfectly cured.'

The King followed the direction of Douban, and rose, the next morning, entirely free from his malady. The physician was invested with the most distinguished honours: the King loaded him also with riches, and the courtiers with caresses: he became the declared favourite; and every one who had a suit to prefer to the King, solicited the interest of the physician.

But amidst all this prosperity, lurked the most fatal destruction. The Grecian King was a very weak prince; easily irritated, and tyrannical in his disposition. His former favourites envied Douban, and seized every opportunity, to excite distrust of him, in the royal breast. 'He is become, said they, next in dignity and power to yourself; as he cured you in a manner so simple, may he not also, by methods as unsuspected, cut off your Majesty; who alone stand between him and the throne.'

For a long time the Grecian King repelled these insinuations. ' Was I to listen to you, said he to his courtiers, I should be like a certain man, who had a faithful parrot, who reported to him the incontinence of his wife during his absence. The wife, enraged at the tell-tale, contrived a method of destroying the credit of the bird, and being revenged at the same time. Accordingly, when her husband went another journey, she caused a slave to scatter water over the cage all night, in the manner of rain, while others produced the appearance of thunder and lightning. The next day, when the husband returned, the parrot complained of having been exposed, all night, to the fury of a continual storm. As the master knew the weather had been exceedingly fine, he hastily concluded that his bird was false, and in resentment put it to death : but the future ill conduct of his wife, too soon proved to him, his parrot's truth, and his own rashness.

' Sir, replied his Vizier, it is my duty to be particularly attentive to your safety, nor must I
suffer

suffer you to be led, by specious appearances, into real danger. The Vizier of a neighbouring King was entrusted with the care of his master's only son, and so ill did he perform that duty, that he suffered the young prince to separate from his train, in the eagerness of the chase, till he was left alone, and had lost his way; while he rode about, he came up to a handsome lady, who appeared to be in great distress. The prince was naturally compassionate: he heard her tale, and at her request, took her up on his horse, which he guided by her direction. They came at length to the ruins of a castle in a lonely place, where the lady desired to alight, and invited the prince to do so too; he obeyed: The lady entered the ruins, and, while he was securing his horse, he heard her say softly, 'be glad, my children; I have brought you a handsome young man, very fat.' Other voices immediately answered, 'mamma, where is he? let us eat him presently, for we are very hungry.'

The prince heard enough to convince him of his danger. He perceived that the supposed dis-

treſſed lady was really a hogres, wife to one of thoſe ſavage demons, called hogres; who frequent remote places, and uſe a thouſand wiles, to ſurpriſe, and devour paſſengers. He began to untie his horſe again with all diligence, putting up, all the while, prayers to heaven for his deliverance. The hogres, returning to the door, never doubted but he was ſtill employed in faſtening his horſe, and hearing him utter prayers, ſhe alſo pretended to put up ejaculations; but the prince was not to be deceived by this hypocrify. Having looſened the rein, he leaped into the ſaddle, and was ſoon out of the monſter's power. But though he eſcaped unhurt, his royal father was ſo much enraged, at the danger he had been in, that he very juſtly cauſed his careleſs Vizier to be put to death. I ſhould deſerve the ſame puniſhment, if I did not proteſt againſt the conduct of Douban, who though as ſpecious as the hogres, may be equally dangerous."

The credulous Grecian king began at length to liſten to theſe inſinuations; which his Vizier

observing, so inflamed his passions, that he caused his benefactor to be seized, and brought into his presence to be put to death. Douban, astonished at so fatal a denunciation, solicited earnestly for mercy, but in vain.

‘You see, said the fisherman to the Genie, how the king treated his benefactor. So have you also behaved to me.’

When Douban found himself in the hands of the executioner, he once more applied himself to the king, requesting he would allow him at least to live till the next day. ‘I have, said he to the cruel prince, among my books, one well worthy your Majesty’s acceptance; if, when my head is struck off, you will open the book at the sixth leaf, and read the third line, my head will answer any questions you shall ask.’ The king tho’ insensible to pity, or to gratitude, was moved by a frivolous curiosity to defer the execution.

The following day, when Douban was brought into the royal presence, he renewed his

supplication for life; reminded the king of his services, and in the most earnest manner protested his innocence. The unworthy prince told him, plainly, that all he could say was in vain. Was it only, continued he, to hear your head speak after it is cut off, it is my pleasure you should be put to death. The physician, seeing his fate inevitable, submitted. He presented a large folio to the king: place my head, said he, for a moment on the cover of this book, and I shall be in a condition to answer your questions. The executioner performed his office: and the head being placed as directed, the blood stanch'd, the eyes opened, and it called upon the king to open the book.

The king obeyed, but finding the leaves stick together, he put his finger to his mouth, and wetted it to separate them. When he came to the sixth leaf, he said, 'Physician, there is nothing written here!' turn over, leaf by leaf, said the head, till you come to the writing.' The king continued to turn over the leaves, putting his finger continually to his mouth, till the poison
with

with which each leaf was impregnated took effect. The head, perceiving that the king had but a few moments to live, exclaimed, 'Tyrant, you are justly punished!' having said this, its eyes closed, and it remained without life. The king also, in a short time, fell down and expired.

'You find, Genie, said the fisherman, that tho' the physician could not preserve his life, he contrived to punish his ungrateful murderer. I am more fortunate in being now out of your power, and having you in mine. I am now about to return you to the sea.' My good friend, replied the Genie, remember, revenge is forbidden: do not treat me as Imama did Ateca. How was that, asked the fisherman? 'Ho! replied the Genie, do you think I can tell stories in this confinement? let

let me out, and I will tell you as many as you please.' 'No, said the fisherman, I will not let you out; on the contrary, I will this moment cast you back into the sea.' 'Hear me, I charge thee, exclaimed the Genie; if thou wilt deliver me, I swear in the most solemn manner, that I will not hurt thee: on the contrary, I will teach thee how to become as rich as thou desirest to be.'

Overcome by this promise, the fisherman once more opened the vessel; and the Genie, resuming his form, instantly kicked it into the sea. The fisherman was alarmed at this action, but the Genie assured him he was safe. He then led him up a mountain, from whence they descended to a great pond, that lay between four hills: 'cast in thy nets here, said the Genie, and carry the fish thou shalt take to the Sultan, who will liberally reward thee: only beware not to throw in thy nets more than once a day, or thou wilt repent it.' Having said this, the Genie disappeared.

The

The fisherman immediately threw in his nets; but tho' the pond seemed to abound with fish, he caught only four. He was much pleased to find them unusually beautiful, and each of a different colour; one being white, one red, one blue, and one yellow. Having much admired them, he set off for the palace, to present them to the Sultan. The singular beauty of the fish made them very acceptable: the liberal prince rewarded the fisherman with four hundred pieces of gold, and ordered them to be served as part of the entertainment of the day.

But an amazing prodigy disappointed the Sultan. As the cook was frying the fish, on turning them, the wall of the kitchen opened, and a beautiful young lady entered, holding a rod of myrtle in her hand; and advancing to the pan, she struck one of the fish, saying, 'fish, fish, are ye in your duty?' when the four fish, lifting up their heads together, said, 'yes, yes, if you reckon, we reckon; if you fly, we overcome, and are content.' As soon as they had thus

thus spoken, the lady overturned the frying pan, and passed again through the wall; which closed immediately, and became as before.

The cook was exceedingly terrified; but recovering herself, and picking up the fish, she had the misfortune to find they were burnt to a cinder, and utterly unfit to be served at the royal table. She was under a necessity of relating the phenomenon to the Vizier. That minister invented an excuse, which satisfied the Sultan; but being very desirous of seeing so strange a scene, he ordered the fisherman to provide him four other fish, of the same sort, as soon as possible.

The day following the fisherman obeyed the Vizier's orders, and to his great joy, received another four hundred pieces of gold. The Vizier shut himself up with the cook, who placed the fish on the fire, and on turning them, when fried on one side, the wall again opened, the lady appeared, the same dialogue passed between
her

her and the fish; when, having overturned the pan, she retired, and the wall closed as on the preceding day.

The Vizier, astonished beyond measure at so great a prodigy, failed not to relate the matter to the Sultan. That prince was equally surprised, and impatient to see so strange a scene himself. The fisherman provided four more fish the following day, and again received a sum which was to him quite a treasure. The Sultan attended by his Vizier retired into his closet; the fish were placed on the fire, and on turning them, the wall opened; but instead of the young lady, there came out a gigantic Black, in the habit of a slave, who advanced with an air of anger to the pan, and touching one of the fish, said, in a terrible voice, 'Fish, are ye in your duty?' at these words, the fish raised up their heads, and answered, 'yes, yes, we are; if you reckon, we reckon; if you pay your debts, we pay ours; if you fly, we overcome, and are content.' The Black then threw the pan into the middle

of

of the closet, and the fish were reduced to coal. Having done this he retired fiercely, and the wall shut, and remained as before.

When the Sultan recovered from his astonishment, he sent for the fisherman, to know where he caught these extraordinary fish; and finding it was near the city, he ordered his usual retinue, and sat off immediately. On ascending the mountain, the pond, and an immense plain beyond it, presented themselves, which no one remembered to have seen before. The Sultan ordered his court to encamp by the side of the pond, and retired to his pavillion with his Vizier. To him the Sultan declared his resolution of exploring, alone, this new discovered plain, in hopes of finding out the cause of so many wonderful events. He commanded the Vizier to detain his attendants on that spot, and to excuse to them his not appearing, under the pretence of his being indisposed.

At the dawn of the morning, the Sultan set forward

forward, and by sun rise, he saw before him a great building, which proved to be a magnificent palace of black marble. As the gates were open, the prince entered; but met not any living creature. He wandered through many spacious apartments, all furnished in the most splendid manner, and kept in the most exact order; he called out aloud, but no one answered. After walking about a long time, he grew weary; and sitting down, was beginning to reflect on the wonders which had happened, when he was interrupted by the voice of one complaining. He listened attentively; and, following the sound, he came to a magnificent hall, at the upper end of which, on a throne of burnished gold, sat a handsome young man, richly habited in regal attire, but oppressed with the deepest melancholy. As the Sultan drew near he saluted him. The young prince returned the salute, by bowing his head: 'I ought to rise, sir, said he to the Sultan, to receive you; but alas! 'I can but too well apologize for continuing in this posture.' Saying this, he drew aside
his

his robe, and discovered to the Sultan, that he was only a man from the head to the girdle, and that the other part of his body was black marble.

‘What you shew me, said the Sultan, fills me with grief and horror. I conjure you, most unfortunate Prince, to relate to me by what accident you have been reduced to your present situation. I am persuaded your story is somehow connected with certain extraordinary events, which have occurred to me lately. Perhaps fortune has led me hither to be of service to you.’

‘Alas ! replied the young man, I have no hope of relief: yet though I must renew my grief by repeating my story, your appearance, as well as your offers of assistance, entitle you to compliance.

THE HISTORY OF THE KING OF THE
BLACK ISLES.

I succeeded my father to the throne of the Black Isles, a few years ago, and invited to share it with me, a young lady, whom I had loved from my earliest infancy. She was my cousin; we were bred up together; and I had every reason to suppose, I was equally dear to her. After a short time I found a visible coolness in the queen's behaviour, which afflicted me the more, as it seemed to increase daily, and I could no way account for it.

It chanced, as I was reposing on a sofa, two of her attendants came into the room, and supposing me asleep, one of them said to the other, 'is not the queen much to blame to treat this amiable prince so ill? I wonder he does not discover her enormities.' 'You do not know,

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then,

ther, replied the other, that every evening, she mixes in his drink, the juice of a certain herb, which causes him to sleep, till, by applying another herb to his nose, she awakens him. 'Tis by this means she escapes detection.'

Though I was much alarmed at this discourse, I still appeared to sleep. In the evening I supped with the queen; but when she presented me, before we retired, with a cup, I only pretended to drink, and holding it to my mouth sometime, I returned it to her untasted. We withdrew to our chamber, where, as soon as I laid down on the bed, I pretended to fall into a deep sleep. The queen immediately arose, dressed herself, and having said to me, 'Sleep, and may you never wake again!'—went out of the chamber.

I was ready to follow her in an instant. She went to a little grove adjoining to the garden, where a man was waiting for her. I reached the grove unobserved, and concealed myself behind,

hind a tree. I listened to their conversation, and found that she seemed to lavish her fondness, on one who heard her very coolly. Enraged that she should treat me so unworthily, I resolved to be revenged on her minion. Accordingly when they had passed me, I gave him a violent blow on the neck with my scymitar, which brought him to the ground. I supposed he was slain; and not caring to come to extremities with the queen, I retired in haste, without discovering myself, and returned immediately to my chamber. In the morning I found my wife lying by me as usual; but she either was, or pretended to be, in a profound sleep: so that I arose, and went to council, without having spoken to her.

At dinner time she presented herself to me, clad in mourning, and expressing the utmost affliction. "Alas, sir, said she, I am oppressed with the most cruel misfortunes. I have just heard of the death of my royal mother; and that the king my father hath lost a battle in which

he, and one of my brothers have fallen. Suffer me to retire, for a twelvemonth, to the palace of tears, that I may pay a proper tribute to their memory.

I was not sorry she disguised thus the true cause of her grief; and readily gave her the permission she desired. She withdrew accordingly to that palace; and thither I found out, she conveyed her gallant. The wound I had given him would have been mortal, had she not preserved him by a drink, which she prepared, and administered to him herself, every day. But, though she was able, by this means, to keep him alive; yet she could neither cure him, nor restore his faculties: he lives indeed, but he can neither walk, move, or speak: his eyes alone, give signs of existence, but not of sensibility.

I hoped that time would have removed the queen's sorrow: I suffered her therefore to continue this course without interruption: but when, at the end of two years, I found her criminal affliction

fiction was still cherished, I fatally resolved to let her know, I was not unacquainted with the real source of it. I concealed myself behind the tomb, which she had erected for her gallant, and became a witness of her ungovernable folly. The fondness she lavished on him, was excessive; nor would it have been excusable, had he been in perfect health. For this adored lover, this minion, thus doated on, was a black Indian; and, as I was well informed, as disgusting in his manners, as in his person.—‘Alas!’ exclaimed she, ‘tis now two years since you have spoken to me; you return no answer to the many proofs of love I give you. Is it from the effect of your barbarous wound, or from contempt, that you are thus silent? O tomb, have you swallowed up the affection he had for me!’ Enraged at these lamentations, I discovered myself all at once, and reproached her with the utmost severity. She heard me at first in silence and confusion; but when I not only declared myself the punisher of her gallant, but drew my scymitar to take away the remains of his life,

her shame turned to rage: she instantly began to repeat enchantments, and pronouncing certain words I did not understand, I became as you see me, half marble, half man.

Nor did I alone fall a sacrifice to the revenge of this wicked woman. By the force of her incantations, she transformed my whole territory. The four islands which I reigned over, are become the four hills you passed: my capital city is changed to a pond; and my people are turned into fishes, of various colours; the mussulmen being white; the persians, who adore fire, red; the christians, blue; and the jews, yellow. This I learnt from her rage, and reproaches; for she is not satisfied with the evils I now suffer; but every day she comes here, and gratifies her malice by invectives, and even by blows, which I have no power to resist.

The young King having finished his story, became overpowered with grief. The Sultan did his utmost to console him. In answer to the further

ther enquiries of his visitor, the king informed him, that the palace of tears was adjoining to the hall they were in: that the enchantress visited the palace every morning at break of day, when she first exercised her cruelty on him, and then attended her gallant, with the drink which preserved him from dying; and bewailed over him his helpless condition.

The Sultan, having revolved these matters in his mind, took leave of the unhappy king, when he found he was a little composed; without acquainting him with his intention, lest a disappointment should aggravate his affliction. He found out the palace of tears, and as soon as he came to the bed where the black lay, he put him to death; and dragging his body into the court of the palace, threw it into a well. He then laid aside his upper garment, and having blackened his hands, face and neck, and taken his scymitar with him, he lay down on the bed, in the same posture in which he had found the black.

He past the night without sleeping, his whole thoughts being occupied with the affair he was engaged in. At day break, the loud lamentations of the unfortunate king, and the severe blows he heard inflicted on him, gave him notice that the wicked enchantress was at hand. The poor prince filled the palace with his outcries, and in vain besought her, in the most affecting manner, to have pity on him. Having gratified her cruelty she left him; and entering the palace of tears, began, in her turn, to use the language of affliction. ‘Alas, exclaimed she, as she approached the bed on which she supposed her lover lay, can I ever sufficiently revenge the miseries I suffer? to whose jealousy, and cruelty, do I owe the wretched situation of my adored lover? alas! my life, my love, continued she, addressing herself, as she supposed, to the black, will you never be delivered from this state of insensibility and silence? will you no more be able to tell me how much you love me?’

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The Sultan affected to awaken slowly, as from a deep sleep. At last, heaving a sigh, and imitating the accent of the blacks, he said, “there is no force, or power, but in God alone, who is almighty.” The enchantress, on hearing these words, gave an excessive shout for joy; when the Sultan, turning towards her, said, ‘unhappy Queen! if thou wouldest have my recovery complete, restore thy husband, and cease to treat him with indignity.’ The fond enchantress flew to the hall, and taking a cup of water, pronounced certain words over it, which caused it to boil, then throwing it on the young King, she said, if thou art in thy present state, by the force of my enchantments, resume thy natural powers.’ On her uttering these words, the Prince instantly found himself restored; the joy he felt, was scarcely allayed by the insolence of his enemy, who directed him, in the haughtiest manner, to leave the palace immediately, and be seen there no more on pain of death.

The enchantress returned with impatience to her supposed lover, and was delighted to find him
appear

appear much better. As she was hastening towards him, the Sultan cried out, 'Stop, wretched lady; —if thou approachest nearer to me, I shall relapse into my former state of insensibility; my recovery cannot be perfect, until thou hast reversed all thy enchantments, which have produced such fatal consequences to thy husband's subjects and territory.'

The enchantress, elated with joy, and hope, immediately withdrew, and, in a few minutes, dissolved all her spells, and restored every thing to its former condition. The fishes became men; the houses and shops were again filled with their inhabitants; and the Sultan's retinue were astonished to find themselves in the middle of a large and populous city.

The wicked magician hastened back to the palace of tears, and was transported to see her supposed lover sitting on the bed. Fearing, however, to approach him too hastily, she restrained herself, and said, 'I have in all things obeyed
5 you'

you : I have restored to its first state every thing that I had transformed.' 'Tis well, replied the Sultan, rising up, and going towards her ; come now and receive the reward thou hast deserved ;' as she flew to meet him, he with one blow of his scymitar, put an end to her life. At once punishing her past crimes, and preventing her repeating them.

The joy of the King, and people of the Black Isles, on their deliverance, was extreme. The Sultan heartily congratulated the King, inviting him, at the same time, to pass a few days in his capital, which they might reach in a few hours ride : but the King of the isles undeceived him ; ' tho', said he, you came hither in that time, yet now the enchantment is ended, you will find it several months journey to the confines of your dominions. I will, however, readily attend you, and ever acknowledge my obligations to you, to the last moment of my life.'

Accordingly, after a few days repose, the young King added an hundred camels laden with
inestimable

inestimable riches to the retinue of the Sultan; and joining the same, with many of his nobles, he conducted that Prince to his capital, where they were received, by the faithful inhabitants, with the loudest acclamations.

Nor was the fisherman forgot. As he was the cause of the discovery, the Sultan gave him a plentiful estate, which abundantly gratified his utmost wishes.

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**THE STORY OF THE THREE CALENDARS,
SONS OF KINGS,
AND OF THE FIVE LADIES OF BAGDAD.**

IN the reign of Caliph Haroun Alraschid, there was, at Bagdad, a porter, who was remarkable for his wit, and good humour. One day as he was waiting for employment, a young and handsome lady called to him: the porter was so struck with her appearance, and affability, that he followed her with joy; and exclaimed, 'O happy day! a day of good luck!'

The lady knocked at a gate, and a Christian, of venerable appearance, opened it. She put
money

money in his hand, without speaking a word; when he, knowing what she wanted, brought her a large bottle of wine, which the porter put into his basket. From thence they proceeded to the different dealers in provisions, fruits, and perfumes, till the basket was quite full. Mean time, the porter by his ready wit, and chearful obedience, ingratiated himself very much in the lady's favour. Having finished their marketing, they arrived at a handsome house, where the lady, whose name was Amine, caused the porter to take the provisions from his basket, for the inspection of her sisters, Zobeide and Safie.

The porter having delivered his load, was handsomely paid; but instead of retiring, as he ought to have done, he continued lingering, in the presence of the ladies. Zobeide supposing him not satisfied with his pay, offered to give him more. 'I am overpaid already, madam, replied he; and am sensible I ought not to have staid here so long. But, permit me to say, I am surprised to see no man in company with such
beautiful

beautiful ladies ; you know the company of women without men, is as dull as the company of men without women. Besides, the Bagdad proverb is allowed to be a good one, which says, "one is never well at table, except there be four in company."

The ladies laughed heartily at this discourse of the porter, who, encouraged by their good humour, pressed his suit, in such sprightly terms, as convinced them that his education had been above his condition. Notwithstanding which, Zobeide, recovering her serious air, was about to reprimand his presumption ; when Amine interfered, and besought her sisters to let him stay, and share their entertainment. The porter could not restrain his joy on their consenting ; he would have restored the money he had received : but the grave Zobeide ordered him to keep it, 'that which we have once given, said she, to reward those who have served us, we never take again.'

They

They sat down to their repast together. After they had eat a little, Amine took a cup, filled out wine, and drank first herself, according to the custom of the Arabians, she then filled the cup for her sisters, and last for the porter, who, as he received it, kissed her hand, and before he drank, sung a song to this purpose; 'that as the wind brings along with it the sweet scent of the perfumed places through which it passes, so the wine he was going to drink, coming from her fair hand, received a more exquisite taste, than what it had of itself.' This song pleased the ladies highly, and the time they were at dinner passed away very pleasantly; after which, Safie reminded the porter it was time for him to depart. He received this hint with visible reluctance, and Amine once more became his advocate, with her sisters; who, to oblige her, readily agreed he should continue till evening.

Zobeide, having signified their consent, turned to the porter, and said, 'one condition you must carefully observe; that whatsoever we do

in your presence, you take heed not to enquire the reason of, nor presume to dive into the motive of our actions. That you may perceive this is an invariable rule with us, rise up, and read what is written over our gate, and then you may stay.' The porter, having read there this sentence, in golden letters, "HE WHO SPEAKS OF THINGS WHICH DON'T CONCERN HIM, SHALL HEAR OF THINGS WHICH WON'T PLEASE HIM;" replied, I give you my oath, ladies, that you shall never hear me speak of any thing which does not concern me, or wherein you may have any concern.

During supper they sang, and repeated verses. The ladies took pleasure in fuddling the porter, while they invited him to drink their healths; mirth and good humour abounded; when they were interrupted by a loud knocking at the gate.

Safie withdrew to enquire the cause, and presently returning, acquainted her sisters, that three Calendars were at the gate, who earnestly

solicited to be received into the house, or even admitted within the porch, for one night ; being all strangers, just arrived at Bagdad : Safie added that they were young, handsome, and of good address ; though each of them was deprived of his right eye. Zobiede and Amine, finding Safie was desirous they should be entertained, desired her to introduce them ; but to be very explicit, in telling them the terms, on which they were admitted.

Safie accordingly led them in, after having shewn them the writing over the gate, and laid the same injunctions on them, that the porter had received, to which they each promised exact obedience. Having paid their respects to the ladies, one of them cast his eye upon the porter, who was clad much like those Calendars who neither shave their beards or eye-brows, and exclaimed, ‘ see, we have got one of our revolted Arabian brethren.’

The porter, who was half asleep, and warm with wine, was affronted at these words ; and

with a fierce look, answered, ‘ sit you down, and don’t meddle with what don’t concern you: have you not read the inscription over the gate? do not pretend to make people live after your fashion, but follow ours.’ The Calendar apologized to the captious porter, and the ladies interposing, pacified him. After the strangers had received suitable refreshment, various instruments of music were introduced; the ladies each took one, the Calendars did the same, and began a concert of music, which was interrupted by another loud knocking.

The Caliph Haroun Alraschid was accustomed to walk abroad in disguise very often by night, accompanied by Giafar, his grand Vizier, and Mesfrou, chief of the eunuchs, to inspect into the order of the city, and see that the duty of the magistrates was properly executed. Passing by the palace of the ladies, he heard the sound of music, and jollity; and chose to enquire into the reason of it. The Vizier represented to him, that it was not yet an unlawful hour, and that by dis-

turbing their mirth, in that disguise, he would probably expose himself to insult: but the impatient Caliph put an end to his remonstrances, by ordering him to knock loudly at the gate. On Safie appearing, Giafar represented to her, that they were Mouffol merchants, strangers in Bagdad; who having rambled a considerable way from their khan (or inn), were at a loss to find it: they therefore besought from their hospitality, the favour of passing the night under their protection.

The ladies, having already admitted the Calendars, made no hesitation to receive also these pretended merchants. The customary caution of the family was given to them, which they promised to observe; the diversions were resumed; the Calendars arose, and danced, after their manner, and every one endeavoured to contribute to the pleasure of the company.

After some time, Zobeide arose, and taking Amine by the hand, said, with a sigh, ‘ Sister,
it

it grows late; it is time for us to proceed to what we are wont to do. The company are properly cautioned, therefore their presence need not delay a business, which must not be dispensed with.'

Amine withdrew, and returned immediately, leading two black bitches, which appeared to have been severely beaten. She delivered the chain of one to the porter, and led the other into the middle of the room. Zobeide appeared much distressed; but receiving the bitch from her sister, she said, 'Alas! we must perform our duty!' the bitch, at the same time, began to cry, and holding up her head, in an entreating manner, to supplicate compassion. Zobeide notwithstanding, having received rods, disregarded her cries, and whipped her for a long time, with great severity; after which she flung away the rods with indignation, raised up the screaming animal by the paws, wept over her; and having wiped the tears from the eyes of the bitch, she kissed her and delivered her to Amine, who led her away. She then received the other bitch from the porter,

and treated her in the same manner; discovered the same reluctance, the same severity, the same sympathy; and dismissed her with equal marks of affection.

As soon as Zobeide had recovered from her fatigue, Amine took a lute, and played a plaintive tune, which she accompanied with her voice. Having played, and sung, for some time, she became transported with her own melody, and her powers failing her, she fainted away. Zobeide and Safie flew to her assistance, and endeavoured to recover her. But the fit, not yielding to common methods, they were obliged, for air, to lay bare her bosom, which appeared bruised, and so full of scars as to shock the beholders.

When the Caliph was first introduced he was struck with the beauty, and elegant manners of the ladies: the singular appearance of the Calendars, all young men of polite address, and all blind of the right eye, had exceedingly engaged his attention: he was astonished at the conduct
of

of Zobeide, in so severely whipping the two bitches, and afterwards crying with them; wiping away their tears; and kissing them, though such animals are considered by the musselman religion as unclean: and the sight of Amine's bosom excited his highest indignation, against the person who had so cruelly abused her. Yet he still suffered himself to be restrained by the conditions imposed on him, and his companions. While he was meditating on these extraordinary events, he overheard the Calendars expressing to each other their wonder also.

The Caliph had not doubted before, but the Calendars were part of the family; but, when he found that they were strangers, and were equally astonished at what had past, he entered into conversation with them. Zobeide and Safie still continuing engaged in the care of Amine, the Caliph beckoned the porter, expecting to receive information from him; as he also was unacquainted with these matters, the Prince proposed, that they should all throw aside the law, which had

been imposed upon them ; and jointly request the ladies to explain these mysteries. The Calendars assented to the proposal, but each declined to ask the question ; at last, they all agreed, in requiring the porter to do it. While they were conversing on this subject, Amine recovered ; and Zobeide, who had heard them speak with much earnestness, drew near, and enquired the cause of their dispute : to which the porter bluntly answered, ‘ Madam, these gentlemen desire you will acquaint them why you wept over your two bitches, after you had whipt them ? and how that lady’s bosom, who fainted lately, became so full of scars ?

Zobeide, turning to the Caliph and the rest of the company, with an air of indignation, asked if they had ordered the porter to make that request. On their acknowledging that they had, she said, ‘ before we gave you the protection of our house, you were each separately cautioned, *not to speak of that which did not concern you, lest you should hear of that which would not please you :* take

take therefore the just punishment of your impertinence and ingratitude.' As she spoke, she gave three hard knocks with her foot, and clapping her hands as often, cried, 'come quick!' a door immediately flew open, and seven strong slaves with scymitars in their hands, rushed in. Every one seized a man, threw him on the ground, and prepared to cut off his head. The frightened porter exclaimed aloud, 'for heaven's sake don't punish me for the crimes of others! I am innocent; they are to blame: alas! continued he, crying, how happy were we before these blind Calendars came; they are the cause of this misfortune; there is no town in the world but falls to ruin, wherever these inauspicious fellows come!

The Caliph alarmed at his situation, was about to discover himself, when Zobeide, who notwithstanding her anger, could scarce refrain from laughing aloud, at the lamentation of the porter, thus addressed herself to them all, 'your unworthy conduct convinces me that you are
common

common fellows, of no credit in your own countries. If however you have any thing to say, before you pay the penalty of your folly, we will hear you.' At these words one of the Calendars lifted up his head, and declared, that he, and his brother Calendars, were princes, and had passed through such wonderful adventures, that, were they told, would recommend them to her pity, and forgiveness.

Zobeide having consulted with her sisters, said, 'relate then, those events which you speak of: if they are indeed singular, they may perhaps soften our resentment.' The slaves then suffering them to rise, and the Calendar who had thus far prevailed with the affronted ladies to suspend their resentment, began his story.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST CALENDAR.

My grandfather reigned over two adjoining kingdoms: one of which he bequeathed at his death to my father, and the other to his younger son: as the utmost cordiality subsisted between the two brothers, when I grew up, and had completed my exercises, I used to pass a month every year in my uncle's court, in company with his son, who was about my own age, and with whom I had contracted an intimate friendship.

The last visit I paid him, my uncle was absent, on a progress, through his distant provinces. My cousin received me with unusual ardour of affection: after a few days repose, he told me, that I could render him an important service; but before he could explain himself, he must exact a solemn oath, that I would never discover what he should employ me to do, nor
any

any measure he should take in consequence of that service. I had the greatest affection for my cousin, and doubted not but his whole conduct was regulated by virtue and honour. I made no scruple, therefore, to take the oath he required; on which he requested me to go, in the evening, to the gardens, which were set apart for the women of the seraglio, 'If you are seen, said he, no one will venture to question you: and when a lady joins you, all I desire of you is, to conduct her as she shall direct you; and to keep my secret.

I obeyed his commands: the lady met me, and at her desire, I conducted her to a cemetery adjoining to the city; where, at a new tomb, we found the prince waiting to receive us; he had with him a pitcher with water, a hatchet, and a little bag of plaister. With the hatchet he broke down the sepulchre in the midst of the tomb, he then lifted up a trap door which discovered a stair case: 'this, madam, said he, is the way.' The lady immediately descended
the

the stairs, and the prince prepared to follow her. Turning to me, he thanked me for my services ; but in answer to my eager enquiries, said only, ‘ adieu, my dear cousin !—remember your oath.’ —Then letting down the trap door, he disappeared.’

I returned to the palace, unobserved. After some days, the prince not appearing, the ministers of my uncle were greatly distressed, to know what was become of him. I did not venture to reveal to them what I knew ; and indeed, when for my own satisfaction, I sought the tomb, where I had left him ; there were so many alike, that I found it impossible to distinguish it.

As the king continued his tour, I determined to return to my father’s court : on my arrival, I was immediately surrounded by the guards, and taken prisoner. The king my father was dead : and his treacherous vizier, taking advantage of my absence, had corrupted the soldiery, and seized the throne. This usurper had a personal
hatred

hatred of me. When I was a boy, I was shooting at a bird, with a cross bow; the ball unfortunately hit the vizier, and put out one of his eyes: I made every apology in my power, yet he never forgave me; and now, when I was brought into his presence, he ran at me in a rage, and pulled out my right eye. But not daring to put me to death in the capital, lest he should excite an insurrection among the people, he sent me to a distant part of the country, under the care of his most trusty adherents, who had orders to destroy me.

From these assassins I found means to escape, and, with much difficulty, I arrived at the dominions of my uncle, who received me with the greatest friendship. After having condoled with me, he told me, with much sorrow, of the absence of the prince, his son. His excessive grief overcame me: and, notwithstanding my oath, I told him all that had passed, between me, and my cousin.

The King listened to me with great attention. When I had finished my narrative, he proposed we should go privately in search of the tomb. We went accordingly; and I knew it immediately, though I had so often sought for it before in vain. We removed the trap door, with much exertion, as the prince had secured it on the inside, with the mortar he took with him. On descending, we found an elegant suit of rooms, in one of which was a bed, with the curtains close drawn: these the king opened, and we found the prince, and the lady, in the bed, burnt to a coal.

While I viewed this spectacle with horror, I was surprised that my uncle, instead of testifying grief at the fate of his son, spit in his face; and exclaimed, 'this is the punishment in this world, but that of the other will last to eternity!' the king perceived my astonishment, and explained his conduct by acquainting me, that a criminal passion had arisen between the prince, and that lady, who was his sister; that he had, in vain, exerted the authority of a father, and of a sovereign,

reign, to restrain these unworthy children; that before he began his late tour, he had given an absolute order, that the prince should not be permitted to approach the women's apartment: 'the wretch, continued the unhappy father, has rendered vain all my precautions. It is plain he built these subterraneous apartments for a retreat, and made use of your friendship to obtain the miserable partner of his iniquity: but God, who would not suffer such an abomination, has justly punished them both.'

When we were recovered from the horror of this scene, we agreed to retire as privately as we came; to cover up the trap door with earth; and to hide, if possible, for ever, so shocking an instance of depravity in our relations. We returned to the palace in the deepest affliction; but our attention was soon called to other objects. The vizier, who had usurped my crown, was an able general; not doubting but that my uncle would endeavour to punish his crimes, and to revenge me, he determined to be before hand with him,

him, he led the flower of his troops into the field, and by skilful conduct, and rapid marches, he contrived to surprise the capital. At the instant of our return, we found that the enemy had entered the gates. We flew to put ourselves at the head of the guards, and made a vigorous resistance; but the fortune of the usurper prevailed. My uncle fell, gallantly fighting; all opposition became fruitless: I had no hope of mercy. I contrived therefore to escape; and, in this habit, I passed unknown, through my uncle's dominions. I arrived this day at Bagdad, intending to throw myself at the feet of the glorious Caliph Haroun Alraschid, and to implore his protection.

HISTORY OF THE SECOND CALENDAR.

I also, madam, began the second Calendar, am the son of a king. I pass over the events of my early life, and come to that which introduced me to so many misfortunes.

My father, having occasion to send an embassy to the Sultan of the Indies, thought the journey, and the survey of a foreign court, would be exceedingly useful to me. By his command I joined the caravan, we travelled for a month, with safety and pleasure; when we were suddenly beset by a numerous troop of robbers, who plundered our baggage, killed many of our party, and dispersed the rest.

I had the good fortune to escape unhurt; but I was alone, and wholly unacquainted with the country.

country. I journeyed on for many weeks, and at last arrived at a large city, in a most deplorable situation: my body, sun burnt; my cloaths worn out; and without the means of obtaining others. On my entering the town, I applied to a taylor, to mend my tattered garments: while he was rendering me this service, he entered into conversation with me, and enquired who I was, and whence I came. I made no hesitation to acquaint him with my situation. 'Take especial care, replied the taylor, how you reveal to any one else, who you are; the prince of this country is the mortal enemy of your father; the laws of hospitality, or even of humanity, are little regarded by him: judge then how necessary it is for you to be concealed.' The instant I heard the name of the city where I was, I knew the necessity of this caution.

The friendly taylor was of the utmost service to me. He took me into his house, and gave me such refreshments as his poverty could furnish. Some days after, when I was pretty well reco-

covered from my fatigue, my host, knowing that most princes of our religion apply themselves to some art or calling, enquired of me which I had learnt. Unfortunately I had neglected that useful custom. 'You must then, said he, submit to harder labour, for it will not be safe for you to continue unemployed in this city; join those poor people, who cut fuel for the use of the town, in the neighbouring forests; I will supply you with a proper habit, and with implements; you may then remain in safety with me, till an opportunity offers of returning to your father's dominions.'

I followed this prudent advice, and for a year, went daily to the forest. One day, as I was pulling up the root of a tree, I espied an iron ring, fastened to a trap door; on lifting it, I saw some stairs, which I descended, and found they led to several stately rooms, in one of which I discovered a young lady, of noble carriage, and extraordinary beauty; she expressed the greatest surprise at seeing me: 'I have lived, said she,

twenty

twenty-five years here, and never saw any man before ! By what adventure are you come hither ?

I was ashamed to be considered by so lovely a woman, as an humble wood-cutter ; I therefore readily told her who I was : and requested to know by what accident she had been so long secluded from the world. ‘ Alas, prince, said she, I am also of royal birth ; my father, king of the isle of Ebene, gave me in marriage to a prince ; but on my wedding night, before I was introduced to my spouse, a Genie took me away.

‘ I was a long time inconsolable ; but time and necessity have accustomed me to receive the hateful Genie. He visits me every tenth day. If I wish to see him at any other time, I touch the talisman you see there, and he presently appears. He will not be here these five days : if you chuse to pass them with me, I will endeavour to entertain you, according to your quality and merit.’ I embraced her proposal with the greatest joy.

The next day she introduced at dinner a bottle of excellent old wine: my head grew affected by it. ‘Princess! said I, you have too long been thus buried alive: you shall not continue to be enslaved by this tyrant. Let him come; I swear I will extirpate all the Genies in the world, and him first: and for his talisman I will break it’—The princess entreated me not to touch the talisman: ‘I know, said she, what belongs to Genies better than you’—but in vain—the fumes of the wine did not suffer me to hearken to her; I gave the talisman a violent kick with my foot, and broke it all to pieces.

Immediately the palace began to shake, thunder, lightning, and darkness appalled us. This terrible appearance in an instant dispelled my drunkenness. I perceived at once my folly, and the danger we were in. The princess, anxious only for me, urged me to escape immediately. I obeyed her, in so much haste, that I left my hatchet and cords behind me. I had scarce ascended

cended up the stairs, when I saw the palace open, and the Genie rushing in, the earth closed.

I returned to the city in great distress, grieved at my own misconduct, and in despair for the poor princess; when I got home, I paid little attention to the joy expressed by my friendly taylor for my safe return; but retired to my chamber, and gave myself up to the most tormenting reflections. From these I was soon roused by my host, who came to tell me, that an old man had brought home my hatchet and cords, which he would deliver to nobody but myself. I turned pale at this intelligence; but before I had time to recover myself, the old man followed him; ‘do not these things belong to you, said he, sternly?’ this abrupt question, his terrible aspect, and my own fears made me unable to answer him: while I continued thus torpid from terror, he seized me, dragged me out of the house, and mounting into the air, carried me along with incredible swiftness; then descending, he struck the earth with his foot, which opened;

and we found ourselves in the palace of the princess of Ebene. But alas! what a spectacle! the poor princess was laying on the ground, fainting, naked, and bleeding.

‘Perfidious wretch! said the Genie to her, is not this thy gallant?’ she, casting up her languishing eyes at me, said, ‘I do not know him, nor ever saw him before.’ What! said the Genie, is he not the cause of thy being in the condition thou art so justly in; and yet dar’st thou say thou dost not know him?’ I do not know him, replied the princess.’ If so, said the Genie, presenting a scymitar to her, cut off his head.’ Alas! replied the princess, I am not able to obey your barbarous command, even if I was willing.’ The Genie, turning from her, with indignation, said to me, ‘and thou—dost not thou know her?’

I should have been the basest of slaves, had I been less faithful to her, than the princess was to me, I therefore answered firmly, I knew her not,
nor

nor had ever seen her before.' 'Take then the scymitar, said the Genie, and cut off her head; I shall then be convinced of your innocence, and will set you at liberty.'—With all my heart, replied I.

The unhappy princess cast up a look to me, expressive of her readiness to die for my safety: but nothing could be further from my intention, than to perpetrate such a crime. Checking therefore, my seeming readiness, I paused a moment; and then said to the Genie, 'I cannot bring myself to take away the life of an unhappy lady, who hath done me no wrong. If by murder only, I can escape your unjust resentment, I am in your power; and you must do with me as you please.'

'I see, said the Genie, that you both put me at defiance.' Having said this, he took up the scymitar, and put an end to her life. Then turning to me 'was I sure, said he, that she had put a greater affront on me, than in conversing with

with thee, thou also shouldst die; but I will be content with transforming thee into a dog, ape, lion, or bird; take thy choice.' O Genie, said I, it is more noble to pardon than to punish. If you will generously dismiss me, I shall ever gratefully remember your clemency, and you will act like the illustrious Sultan Hassan Ali, whose forbearance was the cause of all his good fortune. 'I will have patience till you tell me that story, replied the Genie, but think not to escape unpunished.'

THE STORY OF THE ENVIOUS MAN, AND
OF HIM THAT HE ENVIED.

Hassan Ali was respected by all his neighbours, except by one man; who, envying his great reputation,

putation, conceived a violent hatred to him. Hassan endeavoured in vain, by repeated good offices, to overcome this dislike: but finding his neighbour's ill will unconquerable, he determined to remove to another town, rather than live at enmity.

He removed accordingly, put on the habit of a dervise, and passed his time in retirement. The sanctity of his manners, and the benevolence of his heart, acquired him general esteem: he was raised to be head of a convent of Dervises, and his reputation spread abroad, till it reached the town he had left, and renewed the envy and ill will of his unworthy neighbour. This man, becoming more inveterate than ever against Hassan, determined to visit him at his convent, with intent to destroy him. Hassan received him kindly, and readily went with him into the garden of the convent, to hear a business he pretended to have with him.

It was night, and the envious man was well acquainted with the garden: he prolonged the conversation

conversation till they came to the edge of a deep well; when, suddenly turning, he pushed Hassan into it. He then left the convent hastily, and returned home, rejoicing that he had gratified his malice, and destroyed the good Dervise.

It chanced that the well was inhabited by fairies, and genies; who received Hassan, and preserved him. While he was reflecting on these events, he heard a voice relate his story, and after highly praising him, go on to declare, that the Sultan intended to visit him the next day, to recommend his daughter to his prayers.

Another voice asked, What need the Princess had of the Dervise's prayers? to which the first answered, 'she is possessed by a Genie, but the cure is easy; there is in the convent a black cat, with a white spot at the end of her tail: let seven of these white hairs be burnt in the presence of the princess, and the Genie will leave her, and never dare to return.' The Dervise took care

to remember this conversation. In the morning he got out of the well without difficulty, when he entered the convent, his cat coming as usual to play about him, he pulled out seven hairs from the white spot on her tail, and put them safely by.

Shortly afterwards, the Sultan arrived with his attendants. Hassan received him with suitable respect, and immediately, before the Sultan had explained the cause of his coming, he caused fire to be brought in; and burning the hairs, the Genie gave a great cry, and left the Princess, who instantly appeared to be perfectly recovered. The Sultan rejoiced beyond measure at this event: having the highest opinion of the good Dervise, he gave him his daughter for a wife, and dying soon after, Hassan succeeded to his throne.

When he made his public entry into his capital, great crouds flocked from all parts to see their new sovereign: amongst the rest, came the envious man, who little expected to find his old neighbour alive, and become his prince. The good

good Hassan seeing him in the throng, commanded him to be brought before him. The envious man came into his presence trembling, and expecting the punishment he deserved; but the Sultan ordered him valuable presents, and dismissed him with this remark: 'I freely forgive thy past malice, and consider thee as entitled to reward, having been the cause of my good fortune: but as the evil thou didst intend me, has been most serviceable to me, so the good I now do thee, will become evil, if thou dost not shake off thy malignity.'

You see, Genie, said I, how nobly Hassan Ali behaved to his enemy. Let me entreat you to follow his example.—Instead of attending to my request, the Genie threw some earth in my face, and vanished. I found myself all at once removed

removed from the palace, to the ridge of a mountain, and transformed into an ape.

I was overwhelmed with sorrow at this metamorphosis. I determined, without knowing why, to leave the mountain, and go to the sea coast; which I saw at a great distance. When I came there, I found a vessel at anchor near the shore; I broke off the arm of a tree, and getting on it, guided it with two small sticks, which served me for oars, till I came close to the vessel; when I seized a rope, and jumped on board. The passengers had seen my dexterity with much pleasure; but when I leapt on board, their superstition took alarm; every one pursued me with handspikes, or arrows, and I should certainly have been slain, if I had not thrown myself at the feet of the captain, and by my tears, and expressive gestures, obtained his protection.

A few days after, we made the port of a capital town. On our arrival, some officers came on board, and desired as many as chose, to write
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in a paper they produced. The reason of this request was, the Vizier of the country was lately dead : who, besides possessing other great talents, was a very fine writer ; and the Sultan had determined not to give his place, but to one who could write as well. Every body, on hearing this story, was eager to write. When they had done, I made signs that I could write : the officers paid no regard to me, but the captain once more stood my friend : at his request a pen was given to me, and I wrote six sorts of hands used among the Arabians, each specimen being a distich in compliment to the Sultan.

As soon as that Prince saw my writing, he ordered his officers to conduct the writer to court in great pomp, and to declare him Vizier. The officers could not restrain their laughter on receiving this order, but immediately apologized to their sovereign, by acquainting him that the writer was not a man, but an ape. The Sultan was amazed, and expressed a great desire to see me : on my being introduced, I directly paid my respects

respects to him, in the usual manner, to the surprise of the spectators; who wondered how an ape should distinguish the Prince, and behave to him so properly.

The Sultan retiring to dine, made a sign for me to attend him. After dinner a chess board was brought in; and on his pointing to it, I made him understand that I could play the game. We sat down: the Sultan won the first game, but I won the second and third: seeing him disconcerted, I immediately wrote a complimentary distich, which restored his good humour.

The Sultan had a daughter, who was justly called, the Lady of Beauty; of whom he was exceedingly fond. Thinking the sight of so wonderful an ape would entertain her, he sent for her; on her entering the room she let fall her veil, though there were only the customary attendants present. The Sultan enquired the cause of this novelty, 'Sir, replied the Princess, the ape you have by you, is a young prince,

transformed by enchantment. I have learnt the seventy rules of magic, whence I know, at first sight, all persons who are enchanted, and how they became so.' Have you power also, said the Sultan, to dispel the charm? I have, replied the Princess. Do so then immediately I entreat you, said the Sultan; I interest myself exceedingly in this Prince's fortune; if you can restore him, I will make him my Vizier, and he shall marry you.

The Lady of Beauty retired, and presently returning, brought a knife which had some hebrew words engraved on the blade. She conducted the Sultan and me, attended by the master of the eunuchs, and a little slave, into a private court of the palace; and placing us in the gallery, she drew a circle, within which she wrote several words in Arabian characters, some of them antient, others of the character of Cleopatra.

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When she had finished the circle, she placed herself in the centre of it, where she began adjurations, and repeated verses out of the Alcoran. The air insensibly grew dark, and all at once the Genie appeared in the shape of a lion, of a frightful size.

‘Wretch, said the Princess to him, darest thou present thyself in that shape, thinking to frighten me?’ ‘and thou, replied the lion, art not thou afraid to break the treaty which was so solemnly made between us? but thou shalt quickly have thy reward.’ At these words he opened his terrible jaws, and ran at her, to devour her: but she leapt backward, pulled out one of her hairs, and by pronouncing three or four words, changed herself into a sharp sword, and cut the lion in two.

The lion vanished, and a scorpion appeared in his room. The Princess became a serpent, and fought the scorpion; who finding himself worsted, took the shape of an eagle, and flew

away. The serpent also took the same shape, and pursued him; so that we lost sight of them both. Some time after, the ground opened, and there came forth a cat, with her hair standing upright, and making a fearful miaulling: a black wolf followed her close, and gave her no time to rest. The cat, thus hard beset, changed herself into a worm; and a pomegranate lying by the side of the canal, the worm pierced it in an instant, and hid itself; but the pomegranate swelled immediately as big as a gourd, and presently burst into several pieces.

The wolf became a cock, and picked up the seeds of the pomegranate: when he could find no more, he came towards us, as if he would ask us whether he had left any. There was one lying on the brink of the canal, which we perceiving, pointed it out to the cock, who ran speedily towards it; just as he was going to pick it up, the seed rolled into the river, and became a little fish. The cock jumped into the river, and was turned into a pike, which pursued the
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small fish. They continued both under water above two hours, and we began to wonder what was become of them; when on a sudden we heard such terrible cries as made us tremble, and presently we saw the Princess and the Genie all in flames; they threw flashes of fire at each other so fiercely, that we apprehended the palace would be consumed: but we had soon more reason to be alarmed; for the Genie, having got loose from the Princess, came to the gallery, and blew flames on us. The Princess flew to our relief, and beat away the Genie: but in that momentary attack, the Sultan's face was dreadfully scorched, the eunuch was stifled, and a spark entering my right eye, it became blind. We expected nothing but death, when we heard a cry of, 'victory, victory!' the Princess appeared in her natural shape, but the Genie was reduced to a heap of ashes.

The Princess hastily caught up some water in the hollow of her hand, and uttering certain words, she threw it over me, and I became a

man as before, one eye only excepted. As I was about to return thanks to my deliverer, she prevented me, by addressing her father thus, 'Sir, I have got the victory over the Genie; but it is a victory that costs me dear, as I have but a few minutes to live. This would not have been, had I perceived the last of the pomegranate seeds, and swallowed it, as I did the others; that oversight obliged me to have recourse to fire, and to fight with those mighty arms, as I did, between heaven and earth, in your presence: I have conquered, and reduced the Genie to ashes: but the fire has pierced me also, during that terrible combat, and I find I cannot escape death.'

We were thunderstruck at this declaration, and had scarce recovered the power of expressing our sorrow, when the Princess cried out, 'Oh! I burn!' she continued some time crying out, till at last the effect of the fire was so violent, that she also, as the Genie, was reduced to a heap of ashes.

I was inexpressibly grieved for this fatal misfortune. The Sultan fainted away; and when he revived, he continued several days so ill that his life was despaired of. When he was a little recovered he sent for me: 'Prince, said he, listen to the orders I now give you; it will cost you your life, if you do not obey them. I have constantly lived in felicity, till you arrived in my dominions; I need not remind you of the sad reverse I now experience, or of the loss of my daughter. You are the cause of all. Depart from hence in peace without delay; I am persuaded your presence brings mischief along with it: Depart, and take care of ever appearing again in my dominions: there is no consideration shall hinder my making you repent of it if you do.' I was going to reply, but he prevented me; and drove me from his presence, with words full of anger.—Rejected, banished, thrown off by all the world, I caused my beard and eye-brows to be shaved, and set off for Bagdad: lamenting more for the two unfortunate Princesses, than for my own

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wretchedness. I arrived here this evening, and hope to get admission to the Commander of the Faithful, and, by reciting my strange adventures, to obtain his Princely compassion.

HISTORY OF THE THIRD CALENDAR.

My name is Agib. I am the son of a King, at whose death I took possession of an extensive and flourishing kingdom. When I was settled on the throne, I resolved to visit the distant provinces of my empire, particularly several valuable islands. We had an exceeding pleasant voyage there, but on our return, a furious storm arose, and drove us so far out of our course, that the pilot knew not in which direction to steer. While we were in this uncertainty, a sailor from the mast head gave notice that he saw something, which

which had the appearance of land, but looked uncommonly black.

The pilot on this report expressed the utmost consternation. 'We are all lost, said he, the tempest has driven us within the influence of the black mountain: which is a rock of Adamant, and at this time its attraction draws us towards it; to-morrow we shall approach so near, that the iron and nails will be drawn out of the ship, which of course must fall to pieces, and as the mountain is entirely inaccessible we must all perish.'

This account was too true. The next day as we drew near the mountain the iron all flew to it, the ship fell to pieces, and the whole crew perished in my sight. I had the good fortune to secure a plank which bore me up, and the tide gently drove me to the foot of the mountain; when I approached it, I found it was entirely perpendicular for a great height; I continued therefore on my plank, coasting it, and was almost

most reduced to despair, when I discovered a flight of steps that went up to the top. These I gained with great difficulty; there was no ground on either side; and when I landed I found the steps so narrow, rugged, and difficult, that the least wind must have blown me into the sea. I got up notwithstanding, to the top, without accident, and gave God thanks for my deliverance.

On the summit of the mountain I found a dome of fine brass, upon the top of which stood the figure of a man on horseback of the same metal. Being much fatigued I laid down under the dome, and soon fell asleep; when I dreamt, that an old man came to me, and said, ‘hearken, Agib!—as soon as thou art awake, dig up the ground under thy feet, and thou shalt find a bow of brass, and three arrows of lead: shoot the arrows at the statue, and the rider will fall into the sea; but the horse will fall down by thee; which thou must bury in the same place, whence thou takest the bow and arrows. This being done,

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the mountain will gradually sink down into the sea; and thou wilt have the glory of delivering mankind from the many calamities it occasions. When it has sunk to the surface of the water, thou shalt see a boat with one man in it: this man is also of metal. Step on board the boat, and let him conduct thee; in ten days time he will bring thee to land, whence thou wilt easily find a passage to thy own country. But be particularly careful not to mention the name of God while thou continuest in this boat.'

When I awoke I was much comforted by the vision, which I prepared to obey. I dug up the arrows, and shot them at the statue; every event foretold in my dream followed precisely; and when I got into the boat of metal, I found a quantity of all kind of refreshments, which were very acceptable to me. For nine days the man of metal continued to row, day and night, without ceasing. I was so mindful of the caution I had received, that I did not speak at all: but arriving then near some islands, my joy made me forget myself, and I exclaimed, 'God's name be blest!'

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immediately the man, and boat sunk, and I was left in the water.

I got safe on shore, and presently saw a vessel drawing nigh the island: not knowing what sort of people might be in it, I climbed a thick tree, from whence I could see them undiscovered. Presently a number of slaves landed, and began to dig near the tree where I had taken refuge; soon after a venerable old gentleman came on shore, leading a handsome youth, attended by several slaves, who carried provisions. They came together to the place where the slaves had opened the ground: after a short stay, they all returned to the vessel, except the young man, and sailed away.

When I perceived they were at such a distance, that they could not see me, I descended from the tree, and easily removing the loose earth, came to a flight of steps, these I descended, and found a room handsomely furnished, and the young man sitting upon a couch—he started at the
fight

sight of me, yet rose to receive me with a good grace. I presently removed his fears, by offering to deliver him from his confinement, on which he requested me with a smile to sit down by him, while he related the cause of his being left in that place.

‘My father, sir, said he, had grown old in successful traffic, and had gained immense wealth, before it pleased Providence to grant him a child to inherit it. He had began to despair of the blessing, when I was born. The joy he felt at my birth was presently clouded over; for, in his anxiety for my welfare, he consulted astrologers, as to what my future lot would be. They told him, I should reach fifteen in perfect health, and if I survived that birth day, I should attain a good old age, in prosperity; but that about that time, Prince Agib would throw down the statue of brass, from the mountain of Adamant; and within fifty days after would put an end to my life.’

‘My

‘ My father was exceedingly afflicted at this prediction; and immediately prepared this habitation to conceal me in, at the destined period. As time slid on, his uneasiness in some degree subsided: but he learnt yesterday, that ten days ago, the statue was overturned by the Prince they had mentioned, and I want just forty days to compleat my fifteenth year. These circumstances have awakened all his terrors; he hastened to place me in this asylum, to which I came very chearfully; for surely Prince Agib will never seek me, in a place under ground, in the midst of a desert island.’

Whilst the young man was relating this story, I was surpris'd to find myself so much interested in it. I despis'd those astrologers, who had foretold that I should take away the life of a youth, for whom I already began to feel affection: I encouraged him in the hope that he was out of all danger; I offer'd to continue with him as a companion during his confinement, but took care not to let him know that I was the Agib whom

whom he dreaded. He received my offer with joy; and we passed thirty-nine days very pleasantly.

The fortieth day came, and in the morning the young man rejoiced that the threatened danger was over: he prepared himself by bathing to receive his father, and being fatigued he laid down on a couch to repose. After a while he requested me to give him some melon. I looked out the best which remained, but was at a loss for a knife to cut it. 'There is one,' said he, 'on the cornice over my head.' I saw it, and made so much haste to reach it, that when I had taken it in my hand, my foot being entangled in the covering of the couch, I fell most unhappily on the young man, and ran the knife into his heart.

It is impossible to express the anguish I felt at this fatal accident. I cried out, beat my breast, and threw myself on the ground. When these transports had a little subsided, it fortunately occurred

gured to me, that my situation was very dangerous: that the old man, and his slaves, would probably arrive soon; and finding me in the cavern, and his son slain, I had every thing to dread from his resentment. These considerations were very seasonable, for on my hastening out of the apartment, I perceived that the vessel was arrived, and the old man with his slaves, were landing. I had but just time to climb the tree which had before concealed me, when they came to the subterraneous dwelling.

I could observe that they came forward with confidence, which abated greatly when they found the ground open. Some of the slaves hastily descended, and soon returned bearing the deceased youth, with the knife sticking in his body, for I had not had power to take it out. At this piteous sight the old man fell down in a swoon; the slaves lamented; and, though unseen by them, I joined in their grief very heartily. After a time, when they had with difficulty recovered the old man, they by his direction,

rection, made a grave and buried the poor youth; the unhappy father, overwhelmed with sorrow, threw the first earth upon him; the slaves speedily filled up the grave; and then, carrying their afflicted patron on board the vessel, they departed.

I had hoped to be conveyed to the continent by means of this ship; but being thus fatally disappointed, I was obliged to continue, and ramble about the island, for a month longer, living on the wild fruits it produced: at length I discovered a part where the channel was not very wide: I contrived to pass over here, without much difficulty. When I landed, I set off with spirit; and presently thought I saw at a distance a great fire; I rejoiced much at this sign of inhabitants; but when I drew near, I found, what I had supposed a fire, was the reflection of the sunbeams on a castle of copper.

It was evening before I reached this building, where I was very hospitably received by ten handsome

handsome young men, who were all blind of the right eye; they introduced me into the castle, allotted me an apartment, and invited me to sup with them: after which, at their request, I related what had befallen me. We continued very merry, till it grew late, when one of the company reminded the rest that it was time for them to perform their duty. Immediately upon a signal given, ten basons were brought in, and one set before each of the gentlemen. They uncovered the basons which contained ashes, coal-duft, and lamp-black: with these they be-daubed their faces, beating their breasts, weeping, and exclaiming, 'this is the fruit of our idleness and debauches.' This exercise continued a long time; after which, water being brought in, they washed, and each withdrew in silence to his own apartment.

I was conducted also to my bed chamber; but, though fatigued, I was too much astonished to sleep. In the morning I very earnestly requested the gentlemen to tell me the meaning of what I

had seen, and also how it chanced they were all blind of the right eye. They positively refused to give me this satisfaction: declaring that I sought to indulge a curiosity, which I should repent of as long as I lived. Thus silenced, I passed the day with them at their own request, and the evening was closed with a repetition of their disgusting penance.

The day following I renewed my enquiries in so earnest a manner, that one of them, in behalf of the rest, said, 'it is out of friendship to you, Prince, that we have with-held from you the information you wish: but if you continue to demand it, we are not at liberty to refuse you. Know, however, that you will lose your right eye, by gratifying your dangerous curiosity: and that when that misfortune hath befallen you, you cannot remain with us, as our number is complete, and no addition can be made to it.

As I still persisted, the gentlemen killed a sheep, and skinned it. They presented me with a knife,
and

and sewed me up in the skin, telling me, ' we must now leave you ; but presently a roc will come, and taking you for a sheep, will fly away with you. Be not alarmed ; but when he alights, cut open the skin, and throw it off, when he will fly away. You will then see a large palace, which you will enter. We have all been there, but may not tell you what befel us, or explain ourselves any further.'

The gentlemen then left me, and presently the roc came, and carried me away. This roc is a white bird of a monstrous size, and of such strength that he takes elephants from the plains to the tops of mountains, where he feeds on them. On his alighting I threw off the skin as I was directed, and the roc flew away.

I walked forward to the palace, which was more splendid than imagination can conceive : and when I entered it, I was received by forty ladies, of exquisite beauty, most sumptuously apparelled. They conducted me into a spacious

hall, the doors of which were of burnished gold, set with diamonds and rubies; and every thing within it of equal magnificence. Here, notwithstanding my opposition, they placed me on a seat, exalted above theirs, saying, 'you are, at present, our lord; and we are your slaves ready to obey your commands.

Nothing could exceed the desire of these beautiful ladies to do me service. They brought in a handsome collation, and delicious wines; after which they entertained me with a concert, and dancing. The day following was spent, in the same manner, music, dancing, feasting, and wantonness marked the moments as they flew: and a whole year passed away while I thus indulged myself in every species of voluptuousness.

At the end of the year I was surprised to see the ladies enter my apartments, all in great affliction. They embraced me with much tenderness, and bad me adieu. I conjured them to explain to me the cause of their grief, and of their
being

being about to leave me: when one of them told me, that they were obliged to be absent forty days, upon indispensable duties, which they were not permitted to reveal; and that their sorrow arose from the apprehension that they should see me again no more. ‘This, continued she, will wholly depend upon yourself; here are the keys of an hundred doors which you will find in the adjoining courts. These we are obliged to leave with you. You will find abundance of curious things within ninety-nine of those doors to gratify and amuse you, which you may enjoy in safety; but if you open the golden door, we shall never see you again. And it is the fear lest you should be overcome by an indiscreet curiosity, that gives us so much disturbance.’

I embraced the ladies all around, and gave them my best thanks for a sorrow so very flattering to me. I assured them, in the most earnest manner, that nothing should induce me to forfeit their society, by breaking through their injunction; I received the hundred keys; and having

exchanged many farewells, they departed, and I was left alone.

My time had been passed in such a perpetual round of pleasure, that I had not before had the least desire to examine this inimitable palace. As I was now at leisure, and had permission to open ninety-nine of the doors, I began with much eagerness to gratify my curiosity. It would be tedious, if it were possible, to describe what I found within these doors;—all that is beautiful in nature, or elegant in art was there, in the highest perfection, and abundance. The wealth, as well in jewels as in gold, was incredible. This immense display of every thing valuable and curious was so extensive, that nine and thirty days were passed by the time I had explored the ninety nine apartments I was allowed to visit.

The sight of such profusion of wealth, which I considered as my own, elated me beyond measure: and the near return of my admirable Princesses

resses dissolved me in tenderness. One day only remained, and one door—the fatal door alone, was unopened. My weak curiosity was ungovernable. I yielded to the temptation. I opened that door; a smell that was pleasant enough, though too powerful for me, overcame me, and I fainted away. When I recovered, instead of taking warning and withdrawing, I went in. The scent remained, but no longer affected me. Among many objects that engaged my attention, I saw a very fine horse, superbly caparisoned: I took him by the bridle, and led him forth into the court; I got upon his back, and would have rode him, but he not stirring, I whipped him. He no sooner felt the stroke, than he began to neigh, in an unusual and horrible manner; and extending wings, which I had not observed, he flew up with me into the air. I had presence of mind to sit fast. After a while he flew down again towards the earth; and lighting upon the terrace of a castle, without giving me time to dismount, he shook me out of the saddle, and
having

having, with the end of his tail, struck out my right eye, he flew again out of sight.

I got up much troubled with the misfortune I had brought upon myself; I found the castle was the same from which the roc had carried me, and presently met the ten gentlemen, who were not at all surprised to see me; as every one of them had passed through the same adventure. After condoling with me, and lamenting that it was not permitted them to add me to their number, they directed me to seek the court of Bagdad, where I should meet him that would decide my destiny. Accordingly I put on this dress, and arrived here this evening.

The

The third Calendar having finished his history, a dead silence pervaded the company; at length Zobeide, addressing the Calendars, said, 'your adventures, Princes, are indeed, as singular, as they are distressing; and I am very sorry it is impossible, after what has happened, that we should permit you to remain any longer within our walls: but we have also reasons for our conduct. Depart in peace; and, in proof of our respect, take with you, in safety, these men, your companions in indiscretion; who, but for your sakes, should have learnt that we are not to be insulted with impunity.'

At these words the three ladies withdrew, without permitting any answer; and the slaves, conducting

conducting the Caliph, and his companions, the Calendars, and the Porter to the gate, civilly dismissed them. Haroun felt esteem and pity for the unfortunate Princes. Without discovering himself, he offered his services, to accommodate them for the rest of the night; which being thankfully accepted, he committed them to the care of Mesrour, and returned with Giafar, to his palace.

In the morning the Calendars were introduced to the Caliph, and Giafar was dispatched to acquaint the ladies, that the Commander of the Faithful desired to see them immediately. They accordingly attended him, and found the Caliph, seated on his throne, and the three Calendars placed on his right hand. The ladies having paid their homage to the Caliph, that Prince addressed them with great benignity, and told them he had been one of their guests the preceding night. The ladies were covered with confusion; but the Caliph praised their moderation, after the incivility they had received. 'I was
then,

then, said he, a merchant of Mouffoul, and deserved your resentment; but I trust you will not refuse to the Caliph, the satisfaction you at that time so properly with-held. Be pleased, therefore, to relate the reason of your whipping, and afterwards weeping over the two bitches; and why one of you has her breast so disfigured.'

Zobeide obeyed the Caliph thus:

THE HISTORY OF ZOBEIDE.

Commander of the Faithful, my father was a merchant of this city, who dying some years ago, left his fortune to be divided between his five daughters, of whom myself, and the two bitches, are by one mother; and these ladies by another.

Amine and Safie, being yet children, continued with their mother. My two elder sisters, and I, lived together in great harmony. After some time they both married; being left alone, I employed myself, for amusement, in rearing of
silk

filk worms ; and became so successful in my management of them, that I found them not only entertaining, but exceedingly profitable.

In less than a year's time, each of my sisters returned to me, in great distress : their husbands having squandered away all their substance, and left them to shift for themselves. I received them with kindness, and chearfully shared with them the money I had gained by my filk. As I had experienced the advantage of traffic, I projected a voyage ; I bought a ship at Balfora, and freighted it ; my sisters chose to go with me, and we set sail with a fair wind.

Some weeks after, we cast anchor in a harbour that presented itself, with intent to water the ship. As I was tired with having been so long on board, I landed with the first boat, and walked up into the country. I soon came in sight of a great town. When I arrived there, I was much surprised to see vast numbers of people, in different postures, but all immoveable. The
merchants

merchants were in their shops, the soldiery on guard, every one seemed engaged in his proper avocation, yet all were become stone. At the royal palace I found many people, richly dressed, in the various apartments ; it was easy to distinguish the King, and Queen, by the splendor of their jewels, and their crowns of gold. But the same fate had overtaken them, which had befallen the common people ; the King, the Queen, and their train of courtiers, being all petrified.

Night drawing on, I laid down on a couch. Early in the morning I heard the voice of a man, reading the Alcoran, in the same tone it is read in our Mosques. I arose immediately, and following the voice, I found it came from an oratory, which had, as usual, a nich, that shews where we must turn to say our prayers. A comely young man was sitting on a carpet, reading the Alcoran with great devotion. Being curious to know why he was the only living creature in the town, I entered the oratory, and standing upright before the nich, praised God aloud,

aloud, for having favoured us with so happy a voyage.

The young man closed his Alcoran, and coming to me, desired to know whence I came. I acquainted him; on which he proceeded to tell me, that the city was the metropolis of a kingdom governed by his father: that the King, and all his subjects, were Magi, worshippers of fire, and of Nardoun, the antient King of the giants, who rebelled against God. ‘Tho’ I was born, continued he, of idolatrous parents, it was my good fortune to have a woman governess, who was a strict observer of the Mahometan religion. She taught me Arabic, from the Alcoran: By her I was instructed in the true religion, which I would never afterwards renounce.’

‘About three years ago a thundering voice was heard distinctly through the whole city, saying, “Inhabitants, abandon the worship of Nardoun, and of fire; and worship the only God, who sheweth mercy!” This voice was heard

three years successively, but no one regarded it. At the end of the last year, all the inhabitants were, in an instant changed into stone, every one in the posture he happened to be then in. I alone was preserved; and I flatter myself, madam, that you are sent here to deliver me from a solitary life, which I must own is very irksome to me.'

I readily agreed to take him to Bagdad: I even ventured to promise him an introduction to your Majesty, the great vice-gerent of the Prophet, whose disciple he was. I conducted him to the vessel, which we loaded deeply with gold, jewels, and money; and having recruited our water, we set sail homewards.

The young Prince proved the most amiable and agreeable of men. He solicited me very earnestly to become his wife, which I promised, on our arrival here. But my sisters had each become enamoured with him: this declaration of his, reduced them to despair. Envy and jea-

Houfly took possession of their breasts, and in the night they threw us both overboard.

The Prince was drowned: I had the good fortune to escape, and by morning was driven on shore on an uninhabited island. I dried my cloaths, and went in search of some fruits to support me; when I saw a winged serpent which was seized by a larger serpent, who endeavoured to devour it. Moved by compassion, I had the courage to take up a stone and fling it at the great serpent, whom I hit on the head, and killed: the other, finding itself at liberty, took wing and flew away.

In a short time after, a black woman, of good figure, came towards me leading two bitches. 'I am, said she, the serpent whom you so lately delivered from my mortal enemy: in return for that service, with the assistance of other fairies, my companions, I have already safely conveyed the valuable lading of your vessel to your store-houses in Bagdad; and to punish the cruelty and

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ingratitude

ingratitude of your sisters, I have transformed them into these two bitches.' Having said this, she took them under one arm, and me under the other; and in an instant set us down in my own house. Before she left me, she said, 'if you would not share the fate of your wicked sisters, I command you, in the name of him who governs the sea, that you every night give each of them an hundred lashes with a rod.' I am obliged to obey this severe order, but my resentment having long since subsided, your Majesty saw with what reluctance I comply with it.

Zobeide having finished her story, Amine rose to satisfy the enquiries of the Caliph.

HISTORY OF AMINE.

Commander of the Faithful, said Amine, my life, till lately, contained no extraordinary event. I married early; and on the death of my husband, which happened very soon after, I found myself very wealthy, and determined to continue independent.

But one day, as I was engaged in my affairs, a venerable lady, whom I had noticed at the public baths, came to my house to request a favour of

me. 'My daughter, said she, is to be married to-day. The family of the bridegroom is numerous and respectable; but alas! we are strangers in Bagdad. Vouchsafe then, dear lady, to be present at the wedding. The ladies of your city will not despise us, when they see one of your quality do us so much honour.'

I readily consented, and she conducted me to a handsome house, where I was received by a young lady who I supposed to be the bride. After a few compliments, she said, you are invited here, madam, to assist at a wedding, but I hope you will be more nearly concerned in one. My brother, who is rich, honourable, and handsome, has fallen in love with the fame of your beauty, and will be miserable, if you do not take pity on him! after saying this she clapt her hands, and a young man entered, whose graceful carriage, and good figure strongly recommended him. Not to be tedious to your Majesty, I suffered myself to be overcome by their intreaties, and became

became myself a bride, where I thought of being only a guest.

My new husband exacted a promise from me that I would not speak to, or be seen by any man but himself. Soon after our marriage, I had occasion for some stuffs: and having asked my husband's leave, I took the old lady I spoke of (who had been his nurse) and two slaves, to the shops to buy some. The old lady recommended me to a merchant, at whose shop we chose what we wanted. I had kept my veil close, and now desired the old woman to ask the price of them. The merchant told her he would not sell them for money, but if I would permit him to kiss my cheek, he would present me with them. I directed the nurse to reprehend him for his audacity; but instead of obeying me, she remonstrated in his favour. As I was much pleased with the stuffs, which the merchant would not let me have on any other terms, I foolishly consented. The old woman, and the slaves, stood up that no one should see it; I put by my

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veil;

veil; but instead of a kiss, the merchant bit me, till the blood came.

The pain, and surprise was so great, that I swooned away. The merchant took that opportunity to abscond; and when I recovered, my servants with difficulty got me home. In the evening my husband came to me, and seeing the wound in my cheek, asked the cause of it. I was confounded; yet not willing to own the truth, I said, a porter, carrying a load, came so near me, that one of his sticks cut my cheek. My husband was in a rage: 'to-morrow, said he, I will give orders to the Lieutenant of the Police, to seize all those brutes of porters, and hang them.' Frightened at this, I declared they were innocent. 'How then came your cheek wounded, replied he sternly?' A broom-seller, said I, rode against me, and pushed me down. 'Indeed! replied my husband, then to-morrow the Grand Vizier shall have an account of this insolence, and shall cause all the broom-sellers to be put to death.' Ah! said I, they are not guilty.

guilty. 'How, madam, replied he, what is all this! I insist on knowing the truth immediately.' Sir, said I, I was taken with a giddiness, and fell down, and that is the whole matter.'

'I have too long listened to your lies, exclaimed he;' then, clapping his hands, three slaves entered, whom he ordered to put me to death. As the slaves were in no hurry to execute his cruel orders, I had recourse to entreaties, and prayers; and the nurse joined her supplications in my favour. At last he said to her, 'for your sake I will spare her life; but think not she shall escape with impunity.' At these words he ordered two of his slaves to hold me, while the third gave me so many blows upon my sides, and breasts, with a little cane, that he fetched away the skin and flesh. I fainted under this severe discipline. While I continued senseless, he caused me to be conveyed to a poor habitation, where a strange slave attended me till I recovered, and then left me.

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When I was able to walk, I resolved to go to my own house, but I found my husband, in his wrath, had caused it to be pulled down. I determined, therefore, to seek the protection of my sister Zobeide, who received me with kindness, and with whom I have lived, contentedly, ever since.

When Amine had finished her narrative, the Caliph asked Zobeide if she had any method of communication with the fairy. 'I have, Sir, a locket of hair, replied she, which the fairy left with me, telling me I should one day want her presence, and if I burnt that hair, she would not fail to attend me, though she were beyond the mount Caucasus.' At the request of the Caliph Zobeide burnt the hair: immediately the palace began to shake, and in a short time the fairy appeared

peared before the Caliph, in the shape of a lady richly drest.

‘ Handsome fairy, said that Prince to her, I have wished to see you, to entreat you will release the two bitches from their present situation. I must also beg you will discover to me, if you can, who was that barbarous fellow, who hath treated this lady with so much cruelty, and injustice. I only wonder how such daring acts could be committed, in defiance of my authority; and remain unknown to me.

The fairy readily consented; and the two bitches being produced, she took a glass of water, and pronouncing certain words, she threw a part of it upon them, and the rest upon Amine. Immediately they became two beautiful woman: and the scars in Amine’s bosom disappeared. The fairy then said, ‘ Commander of the Faithful, the unknown husband of this lady is Prince Amin, your eldest son. She had been imprudent; and her excuses tended rather
to

to excite suspicions of her having been yet more faulty, he is not therefore without excuse. But now he has accidentally heard the whole truth, he will no doubt receive her again to his heart. At these words the fairy saluted the Caliph, and disappeared.

Prince Amin came forward, and joyfully accepted Amine from the hands of his father. After which the Caliph invited Zobeide, to share the throne of Persia with him, and bestowed her other three sisters on the three Calendars, whom he admitted to his counsels, and promoted to the highest dignities of his empire.

THE
SEVEN VOYAGES
OF
SINBAD,
THE SAILOR.

THERE lived formerly at Bagdad, a poor porter, called Hindbad. One day when the weather was excessively hot, and he was employed to carry a very heavy burthen; he went through a street where the pavement was sprinkled

led with rose water ; and, there being a pleasant breeze, he laid down his burthen, by the side of a great house, to rest himself. He enjoyed the agreeable smell of the perfumes, he heard the sound of many instruments, playing in concert, and saw a grand feast about to be served up. As he seldom past that way, he knew not whose house it was; but asking, was told it belonged to Sinbad, the sailor.

While Hindbad thought this handsome building belonged to some Prince, he was not disturbed; but hearing it was the property of a person, who he supposed had been of his own degree, envy took possession of his breast. He returned sullenly to his load, and murmured against providence, who had given to the happy Sinbad a life of ease and luxury, while to him was allotted, fatigue and poverty. While he was expressing reflections like these, aloud; two of the servants came to him, and desired him to follow them, as their master, Sinbad, wanted to speak with him.

Hindbad

Hindbad did not very willingly obey them; but as resistance was in vain, he suffered himself to be led by them into a great hall, where there was a numerous company at dinner. At the upper end of the table, there sat a comely venerable gentleman, with a long white beard: this grave gentleman was Sinbad. The porter being introduced to him, Sinbad caused him to sit down at his right hand, and served him himself with excellent wine, and the choicest dainties.

When dinner was over, Sinbad began to converse with the porter, and calling him brother, after the manner of the Arabians, when they are familiar with one another, he asked him, what it was he had said a while ago in the street? for Sinbad had chanced to overhear his murmurings. The porter surprised at the question, hung down his head, and replied, ‘ I confess, Sir, my weariness put me out of humour, and I uttered some indiscreet words, which I humbly request you to pardon.’ I did not send for you, replied Sinbad, in anger: but as I find you murmur

mur at my having obtained the affluence I enjoy, that you may not continue to offend God, by envy and discontent, I will relate to you the adventures which have gained me all this wealth, and I am inclined to think you would rather continue in your safe and easy poverty, than be exposed to the dangers I have gone through, tho' they have so greatly enriched me.'

SINBAD'S FIRST VOYAGE.

My father left me, a decent fortune, which like many inconsiderate young men, I greatly diminished. Recollecting myself in time, I engaged in traffic; and joining with several other merchants, we freighted a vessel, and set out on a trading voyage. One day, while we were under fail, we were becalmed, close to a little island, even almost with the surface of the water, which resembled a green meadow. The captain ordered the fails to be furled, and permitted those who chose it to go on shore; of whom I was one.

We had not long landed, when on a sudden, the island trembled, and shook us terribly. The people on board saw our situation, and called out to us to reimbark directly, as what we had taken for an island was only the back of a prodigious fish. The nimblest of us got into the sloop, others jumped into the sea, and swam towards the vessel. For my part, I was still on the back of the fish, when it dived into the sea. I got hold of a piece of timber, which we had brought to make a fire with, and by this assistance was preserved from sinking, but found it impossible to recover the ship.

I continued in this situation till the next day, when I made land, much fatigued. As I advanced from the shore, I saw a very fine mare feeding: I went towards her, when sundry voices called out to me, which seemed to come from under the ground. Looking around, I saw a hollow, sunk in the earth, in which were several men, who received me with great kindness, and gave me every necessary refreshment. They

were

were grooms to King Mihrage. Every year at that season, they brought thither the King's mares, and fastened them one by one to a stake, till they were covered by a horse that came out of the sea; who, after he had done so, endeavoured to destroy the mare, but was prevented and driven away by the shouting of the grooms. The foals so procured, proving very excellent, were preserved for the King's use only.

Had I been a day later, I must have perished: for the island was very barren, and they had so nearly finished their business, for that year, that they set out, on their return, the next morning. On our arrival they presented me to the King, who having heard my story, ordered me to be supplied with every thing I stood in need of.

There belongs to this King an island, named Cassel; they assured me that every night a noise of drums was heard there; whence the mariners fancy it is the residence of Degial*. I had a

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desire

* Degial to the Mahometans is the same with Antichrist to us. They have a tradition that he will appear about the

end

desire to see this wonderful place, and in my way thither saw fishes of an hundred, and of two hundred cubits long ; far from being dangerous, they fly from the least noise. I saw also other fishes about a cubit long, which had heads like owls.

As I was one day at the port, after my return, I cast my eye on some bales that were unloading, from a vessel newly arrived, and presently knew them to be mine. I sought the captain whom I instantly remembered ; but it was some time before I could persuade him that I was Sinbad ; so confident was he that he had seen me perish. When he was convinced, he restored me my cargo, which through the favour of the King, I sold to very great advantage. I loaded my part of the vessel, with the best produce of the country ; had a safe and speedy passage home ; where I disposed of my merchandize to the value of 10,000 * sequins. I then bought slaves of both sexes, built end of the world, and conquer all the earth, except Mecca, Medina, Tarsus, and Jerusalem, which are to be preserved by angels, whom he shall see round them.

* The Turkish sequin is about nine shillings sterling.

built me a fine house, resolving to forget the miseries I had suffered, and to enjoy myself.

Sinbad stopt here, and ordered the musicians to renew the concert. In the evening he gave the porter a purse of an hundred sequins, and bid him come the next day to hear more of his adventures. Hindbad returned home to his family, blessing God for what he had received at the hands of Sinbad.

[SINBAD'S SECOND VOYAGE.]

I had no intention of venturing to sea again; but I soon grew weary, and ashamed, of an inactive life. I embarked therefore with some other merchants; and having been at sea some time, we came to an uninhabited island; we landed and dined very heartily. Finding myself disposed to sleep, I withdrew from the company, and laid myself down in a charming grove. How long I slept, I know not; but when I awoke I perceived the ship under sail, at such a distance, that I soon lost sight of her.

My

My surprise and grief were inexpressible, but remembering it was of no use, to afflict oneself, when an evil is unavoidable; I resolved to suppress my unavailing sorrow. I climbed up to the top of a great tree, that by an extensive prospect I might better judge of my situation. I saw at no great distance, a large white body; when I approached it, I found it so very smooth, that it was impossible to climb it. It was fifty paces round, and of a prodigious height. While I was examining this phenomenon, the sky on a sudden became dark, and looking up, I saw a bird of a monstrous size, preparing to settle. I now knew that the bird was a roc, and the smooth white substance was its egg.

The bird lighted, and sat over the egg to hatch it. As I perceived her coming, I crept close to the egg, so that I had before me one of the legs of the bird, which was as big as the trunk of a tree. I tied myself strongly to it, with the cloth that went round my turban, in hopes that when the

roc * flew away, she would carry me to some place where I should find inhabitants. Accordingly the next morning, when she took wing, she raised me with her, and when she alighted, I quickly untied the knot, which I had scarce done, when she flew away again, taking in her bill a serpent of a monstrous length.

The place where I was left, was a very deep valley, surrounded on all sides with precipices, so steep that it was impossible to climb them. I soon found that I was no way benefited by the exchange.—As I walked along, I perceived the ground was strewn with diamonds; I examined them with much pleasure; but presently saw objects which at once put an end to all agreeable ideas, and terrified me exceedingly. These were a number of serpents, each capable of swallowing an elephant. They had now retired to their dens, to avoid their enemy, the roc; but I had

no

* Mark Paul in his travels, and Father Martini in his history of China, speak of this bird; and say, that it will take up an elephant, or a rhinoceros.

no doubt I should have every thing to fear from them at night.

I immediately sought a secure retreat, and was so lucky as to find one. In the evening, as I expected, all the serpents left their dens, and came hissing about my retreat. Though they could not hurt me, they put me into such extreme fear that I could not sleep. When the day came, the serpents retired, and I came out of my cave trembling: I can truly say, that I walked a long time upon diamonds, without having the least inclination to touch them: at last, spent with fatigue, and want of rest, I was obliged to lay down to sleep; but had scarce shut my eyes, when I was awakened by a great piece of flesh meat falling close to me: at the same time I saw others fall from the rocks in different places.

This circumstance gave me immediate hope of escape. I had always considered as fabulous the stories told of the valley of diamonds, and of the stratagems used by merchants, to get jewels from thence;

thence; but now I found them true. This valley, from the height, and form of the rocks which bound it, being utterly inaccessible to man, the adventurers come as near as may be, at the time eagles hatch their young; and, by help of machines, throw very large pieces of raw flesh, high into the air: these falling upon the diamonds, their sharp points enter the flesh, and they stick to it: the eagles, which are larger here than in any other country, convey these pieces of meat to their nests, to feed their young; but the merchants frighten away the old bird, till they have examined the prey, and taken away the diamonds which may chance to stick to it.

I now no longer doubted the truth of this account. I began therefore very deliberately to select the largest and clearest diamonds I could find: and having filled my provision bag with them, and secured it to my girdle; I took a piece of meat, and tying it to my back, I laid down with my face to the ground. In a short time, one of the eagles seized me, and conveyed me to his nest.

As

As soon as the eagle had deposited me, the merchants as usual drove him away. Every merchant had his distinct nest, which was considered as his peculiar property. When the owner of the nest where I was, ascended to it, and saw me, he was, at first, much frightened; but, recovering himself, he began to upbraid me with his disappointment: he helped me, notwithstanding, to descend, and introduced me to the other merchants, who heard my story with amazement.

When the season for throwing the meat was over, we all prepared to return to our several countries. Before we parted, I took aside the merchant, in whose nest I was found, and shewed him the bag of diamonds I had selected in the valley. I told him I considered him as my deliverer, and frankly offered to share them with him. He was astonished at their size, and beauty; but I could only prevail with him to accept of one, and that one of the smallest, which he said would raise him as great a fortune as he wished for. We parted perfectly satisfied with each

each other, and I returned by the first ship to Bagdad.

We touched at the isle of Roha, where the trees grow that yield camphire. These trees are so large, that an hundred men may easily sit under the shade of one of them. They bore a hole in the upper part of the tree, whence issues a juice which being received into a vessel, acquires a consistency, and becomes what we call camphire; after which the tree withers and dies.

There is in this island the rhinoceros, a creature less than the elephant, but greater than the buffalo. It has a horn upon its nose, about a cubit long, which is solid, and cleft in the middle; there is upon it draughts representing the figures of men. The rhinoceros fights with the elephant, runs his horn into his belly, and carries him off upon his head, but the blood and fat of the elephant run into his eyes, and make him blind; he falls to the ground; and what is very astonishing, the roc carries them both
away

away in her claws, to be meat for her young ones.

On my arrival at Bagdad, I gave large sums to the poor, and lived honourably, on the vast riches I had acquired, with so much danger and fatigue.

Sindbad gave the porter another purse, of an hundred sequins, and invited him to return the next day.

SINDBAD'S THIRD VOYAGE.

I soon forgot the risk I had ran in my two former voyages: and hating idleness, projected a third. I embarked accordingly; and after some days favourable weather, we were overtaken by a tempest, which drove us quite out of our course. Our vessel being much shattered, we were glad to make the first port, to repair our damages.

We had scarce began this necessary business, when we were beset in a very extraordinary manner.

As

An innumerable multitude of little frightful savages covered all over with red hair, came swimming about us. They were not more than two feet high, but seemed uncommonly strong, and nimble. Their immense number, and horrible appearance, so terrified us; that we suffered them to board, and take possession of the vessel, without resistance. This was a lucky circumstance for us; for there was no hope of escaping, and we learnt afterwards, that if we had killed one of them, they would have put us all to death.

Having taken possession of the vessel, they set us on shore, and made signs that we might go where we pleased. After which they returned on board, and sailed to another island to which they belonged. We marched together into the country, and had not advanced far, when we came to a great pile of building, which we entered. We found the doors and rooms uncommonly lofty; but our attention was soon engaged by an appearance equally shocking and alarming. On entering a vast apartment, we found various
fragments

fragments of human bodies, and a parcel of spits, on which they had evidently been roasted. Though we were much fatigued, we were about to retire hastily from a habitation which threatened us so dreadfully; when all power of escape was taken from us, by the presence of the owner of the mansion.

He was a tremendous black giant, as high as a tall palm-tree, with only one eye in the middle of his forehead, which looked as red as a burning coal; his teeth and nails were long and sharp; and his mouth resembled that of a horse. The sight of so frightful a figure, rendered us immoveable with horror. After surveying us for some time, he took me up by the nape of the neck, and felt my body, as a butcher would his sheep; finding me very thin, he set me down, and took up another: at last, laying hands on our captain, who was fat, he thrust a long spit through him, and kindling a fire, he roasted and eat him. After which he retired to an adjoining room, where he slept; and snored all night like thunder.

thunder. In the morning he got up, went out, and left us in his dwelling.

Our distress may be easily imagined. For some time we abandoned ourselves to despair. But finding we were not confined, we divided ourselves into small parties, and sought various hiding places, where we vainly hoped to continue in safety. In the evening, the giant found out all our retreats, and collecting us together, drove us before him into his habitation, where another of our companions fell a sacrifice to his voracious appetite; after which he retired, and slept as before.

The next day we renewed our lamentations; and some of the company began to talk of throwing themselves into the sea, rather than die so strange a death. I reminded them, 'that we were forbidden to destroy ourselves. That as there was a great deal of timber, floating on the coast, we might make small floats to carry us to sea; and though the risk would be great, yet our

present situation was still more desperate.' We set about them immediately; but just as they were finished the night approached. The giant again conducted us to his cavern, and repeated his cruelty.

While we were busy in preparing our floats, I proposed a scheme to my companions, to revenge ourselves of this monster; in case we were obliged, as I feared we should, to pass another night in his power. Accordingly, when we heard him snore, ten of the boldest of us took each a spit, and making the points red hot in the embers of the fire, where he had roasted our friends, we thrust them all at once into his eye, and blinded him. He awoke in great agonies, and making a frightful outcry, he felt about, in hopes of sacrificing us to his fury: but we took care to be out of his reach; and finding he sought for us in vain, he groped for the gate, and went out, howling dreadfully.

We

We hastened to the sea side, and got our floats into the water; but as it was yet night, we agreed, not to put to sea till day break. We were not without hope that our enemy, whose howling we still heard, might die: in which case we need not risk our lives upon the floats, but stay till a better conveyance might be made. Day had scarce appeared, when we found it necessary to put to sea, with all possible haste; for we saw the blinded giant, coming towards us, led by two others of his species, as large, and terrible as himself.

We rowed off immediately; and having got a little way from shore, began to congratulate each other on our escape. But we were deceived; for as soon as the giants saw us, they ran to the adjacent rocks, and tearing away huge masses of stone, they threw them after us, and destroyed every float, except one, on which I was, with two others. We were so fortunate as to get out of their reach, and we thought ourselves more so, when, the next day, we made an island,

abounding with excellent fruit, which greatly refreshed us.

But alas ! another danger awaited us, no less fatal and horrid than that which we had fled from. As night approached, we took refuge in a cavern we had discovered, and fell asleep : but were soon awakened, by the approach of a prodigious serpent ; who seizing one of my companions, notwithstanding his utmost efforts, crushed his bones to pieces, and swallowed him up before us : after which the monster retired ; leaving us unhurt, but terrified beyond expression.

The day following we passed in fruitless endeavours to escape from this new distress. But the tide having driven our float among some concealed rocks, we had not strength to disengage it ; and were obliged, by the approach of night, to seek shelter on land. To avoid the serpent we sought out a very high tree, which we climbed almost to the top. In a short time the tremendous

dous monster appeared, hissing horribly. He came immediately to our tree; and winding himself round the trunk, he ascended with great ease, till he reached my companion, who fell, an unresisting sacrifice to his voracity.

I remained, for this time, in safety; the serpent retiring when he had devoured my comrade. In the morning I descended from the tree, and passed the day in a state of stupifying horror. Towards evening I began to recollect my situation. I gathered together a large quantity of dry faggot wood, with which I formed a circle round the tree. The serpent came at the usual hour, but was prevented, by the rampart I had made, from approaching me. He continued attempting to force his way, till day appeared. when he retired.

Though I had reason to be satisfied with my escape, yet the terror of my situation, and even beyond that, the poisonous breath of the serpent, had made the night inexpressibly terrible. Rather

than pass such another, I determined, if I could not remove the float, to tear off a single plank, and put to sea upon it. I went down to the shore, to execute this purpose, when I saw a ship at a considerable distance. I presently loosened my turban, and displaying the linen, made signal of distress. Fortunately the captain perceived me, and sending a boat for me, brought me safely on board.

My joy at this deliverance, could only be equalled by the benevolence of the captain and merchants; who heard my story with wonder, and relieved my necessities with great liberality. The ship was of Balsora, but first bound on a trading voyage to Salabat; I had reason, therefore, to hope I should soon reach my native country, though not with my usual increase of fortune. In this last expectation I was agreeably disappointed; for on opening the cargo, when we arrived at Salabat, the captain who was become much attached to me, proposed that I should undertake the management of a part of the cargo, which

which had belonged to a merchant, who had failed on board, but was dead. On receiving the bales into my possession, I found they were entered in my own name; and that I was actually on board the same vessel, in which I had failed on my second voyage.

The captain soon remembered me, and restored, very readily, all my goods, which he had greatly improved. Thus I became unexpectedly enriched by this voyage. I distributed largely of my gains to my friends and the poor; and had enough left to buy another considerable estate. To-morrow, continued Sindbad, presenting the porter with another purse, come and hear my next adventure.

SINBAD'S FOURTH VOYAGE.

Industry was now become habitual to me; I soon fitted out another vessel, and again set sail. After several weeks of fine weather, a furious tempest drove our vessel on a strange shore. The cargo and most of the crew were lost, and those who escaped were in the utmost distress.

Next morning, the natives of the country, who were blacks, came down upon us in a body, and seizing us, drove us before them, a long way up the country. On our arrival at their town, they

they gave us an herb which they made signs for us to eat. My companions, pressed by hunger, readily obeyed; but I, perceiving they themselves eat none of it, and expecting no good from such inhospitable hands, concealed what they gave me, and only pretended to eat it.

They now set us at liberty, and gave us plenty of rice and other provisions, of which they themselves also partook. While I was at a loss to account for this behaviour, I found, on addressing myself to my companions, that every one of them had lost his understanding. So baneful was the effect of the herb they had first eaten.

Our masters perceived no difference between me, and my comrades. They gave us great abundance of food, of which my unfortunate shipmates eat greedily, and soon became fat. Then was the mystery of our fate made plain. The blacks were cannibals: and having first deprived us all, as they supposed of our reason; they fatted us up, as delicacies, for their inhuman feasts.

feasts. My companions soon fell victims to their cruelty. But for me ; partly from the horror of my situation, and partly from my own care, in eating no more than was necessary to preserve life, I grew every day leaner. The blacks, therefore, put off my destiny to a future time.

The barbarians, not doubting but I was bereft of understanding, allowed me a great deal of liberty ; one day, on some particular occasion, all the inhabitants went out of the town together, except a few feeble old people, of whom I was in no fear. I instantly seized the lucky moment to escape ; and disregarding the outcries of those who remained in the town, I set off with all possible speed, and gained some neighbouring woods, which afforded me food and shelter.

I travelled many days, avoiding with great care, any place which seemed to be inhabited. At length I came near the sea, and saw some white people, gathering pepper, which I took for a good omen. I went among them without scruple,

scruple, and was overjoyed to hear them speak Arabic.

These people received me very kindly, and when they had laden their ships with pepper, they took me with them, to their own country, and introduced me to their king. I was so well treated by my new protectors, that I soon recovered my health, and spirits. I became a favourite with the King; and a trivial matter greatly increased my influence with him. I observed that Prince and all his courtiers, rode their horses, without saddle, bridle, or stirrups. I found workmen; and giving them proper models, I caused all these articles to be made, and presented them to the king, who was highly pleased with them. I made others, for all the principal courtiers; and introduced several other mechanical arts, which were familiar to me, but entirely unknown in that country.

By these means I conciliated the favour, both of the prince, and people. The King not only

made me very considerable presents, but being desirous I should settle in his country, he gave me, for a wife, one of the richest, and most beautiful ladies of his court. I durst not oppose the royal pleasure, I received the lady, therefore, with seeming joy, and lived with her in much harmony. But I could not forget my native country, nor suppress a wish to make my escape, and return hither.

While these thoughts took up much of my attention, the wife of a neighbour, with whom I had become intimate, died. I went to comfort my friend, and saluting him in the usual manner, I wished him a long life. ‘Alas! said he, I have not an hour to live: I must be buried presently with my wife—do you not know, continued he, that it is the law of this country—a law on no account ever violated—that the living husband is interred with the dead wife: and the living wife with the dead husband?’

While

While he was talking thus with me, his kindred, friends, and neighbours came to assist at the funeral. They dressed the deceased in her gayest apparel, and ornamented her with all her jewels : and having placed her in an open coffin, they began their march to the place of burial, the husband walking at the head of the company. They went up a high mountain, and near the summit of it, they came to a large stone which covered the mouth of a very deep pit. Having raised the stone, they let down the corpse ; the husband then embraced his friends, and suffered himself to be placed in another open coffin, with a pitcher of water, and seven little loaves, and was let down in the same manner. The ceremony being over, they covered the hole with the stone, and returned to the city.

Though I was struck with terror, and astonishment, at this barbarous transaction ; the rest of the company were entirely unmoved. Accustomed to it from their earliest infancy, they regarded it as a matter of course. I thought the
law

law so absurd, as well as cruel, that I ventured to speak my sentiments on it to the King: but I found his Majesty immovably prejudiced in its favour. 'It is a usage here, said he, as universal as it is ancient: we have no trace how early it began: nor a single instance of an exception from it; from the Sovereign, to the meanest peasant.' 'Strangers, I hope, replied I, are not subject to this barbarous law?' 'Indeed they are, said the King, smiling, if they marry in this country.'

From that hour I became the prey of continual apprehension. Every little indisposition of my wife, however trifling, alarmed me. I renewed, with redoubled earnestness, my endeavours to escape: but, as if my conversation with the King had excited his suspicions, I found it impossible to elude the spies, which every where surrounded me. In a short time all these apprehensions were realized. My wife fell sick, and in a very few days died.

Judge

Judge of my feelings, on this dismal occasion. Flight, or resistance, were alike impracticable. The body was immediately prepared for interment; the cavalcade began; and I was obliged to lead the procession. On our arrival at the fatal pit, I begged leave to address the King, and his court, who in honour to me attended the funeral. It was granted, but to no purpose. In vain I threw myself at the Monarch's feet, pleading my past services. In vain I harangued the people, on the cruelty, and injustice of subjecting a stranger to so barbarous a law. In vain I urged that I had another wife, and children, in my own country; which plea, as good mussulmen, who allow polygamy, they ought to respect. Instead of being moved by my pleas, and entreaties; they only made the more haste to inter the corpse; and notwithstanding my exclamations and outcries, they forced me into the coffin, and having lowered me down, they shut the mouth of the pit.

When

When I reached the bottom, I threw myself on the ground in a transport of grief. How many hours I passed in this state, I cannot tell; but as nature will not support continual anguish, I became at length by degrees more composed. I then surveyed my situation, and found, from a little light, which here and there broke thro' the cavities of the rock, that I was in a cave of great length. Innumerable dry bones were scattered on the ground, interspersed with jewels, and trinkets of immense value, which had been buried with the different bodies: but, to my great surprise, there was no stench, which I was then at a loss to account for.

Notwithstanding my hopeless situation, and the misery I felt in contemplating it; something, I know not what, preserved me from absolute despair. I determined to husband my bread and water, with the utmost care; and actually managed it so, that it supported me for many days; at length it was quite exhausted, and I was just resigning myself to death, when I perceived the
stone

stone at the mouth of the pit to be removed. I had no doubt but another funeral was taking place. Instantly, snatching up a large bone, I concealed myself in a corner of a cavern. I waited till the second coffin was let down, and the pit covered. When finding a woman had been buried with her deceased husband, I gave the unfortunate wretch several blows which speedily dispatched her; and seizing on her bread and water, I became possessed of the means of preserving my life a little longer.

A few days after, when this store, so dreadfully obtained, was nearly gone; as I was sitting on my coffin, I heard something walking, and panting as it approached, from the interior parts of the cavern; which being entirely dark, I had not attempted to explore. On this occasion, my situation was too desperate to admit of fear; and I determined to meet it. As I advanced, I found the noise retreat from me. I continued to follow it, till at length I found, to my inexpressi-

ble joy, that it led me to a hole in the rock big enough for me to escape through.

When I arrived in open day, I threw myself on my knees, and returned thanks to heaven for my deliverance. I found I was on the sea coast with the immense mountain in which I had been buried between me and the town. I perceived also that the creature I had followed was a sea monster, who I had no doubt came into the cavern to feed on the dead bodies; and thence I could account for the air of that dismal place being so little noxious; having refreshed myself plentifully with the fruits I found on the mountain, I had the courage to penetrate the cavern again, and bring away part of the jewels, and other treasures, it contained. - I did so, repeatedly, for some days, and made up several bales of them, with the apparel I found in the cavern.

Soon after, I was so lucky as to discover a ship. My signals were seen on board, and a boat sent to my relief, which conveyed me, and my bales,
to

to the vessel. As neither the captain, nor crew, were very inquisitive; they were satisfied with a loose account I gave them, of my having been shipwrecked where they found me. We had a short and agreeable passage, and arrived safely at Bagdad. I handsomely rewarded my deliverers, nor did I forget to distribute part of my wealth among my friends, and the necessitous.

Sindbad, having finished his relation gave the porter another purse, and another invitation to hear his further adventures.

SINBAD'S FIFTH VOYAGE.

By this time, my name became celebrated as a bold navigator, and fortunate merchant. My vanity was so highly gratified by these distinctions, that I determined to support my claim to them by undertaking another voyage.

Accordingly I fitted out, and loaded, a stout ship of larger burthen than any I had sailed in before. We had been several weeks at sea before

fore we made land, and at last touched at a desert island, where we found an egg of a roc. There was a young roc in it almost hatched; as the bill began to appear.

As we had been for some time confined to salt provisions, the sailors determined to have a feast. Accordingly they broke the egg with hatchets, and cutting away large pieces of the young roc, they roasted them and regaled themselves. I earnestly persuaded them in vain, from this rash measure: however, when they had gratified their desires, they listened to my advice; which was, to hasten on board, and sail directly away, before the old roc should return. We embarked, and got under way with all diligence; but we scarce had weighed anchor, when we saw the male and female rocs appear at a distance, like two great clouds. When they approached their egg, and found it broken, the noise they made was tremendous.

They rose again immediately into the air, and flew away, so that we lost sight of them, and began to think we had nothing to apprehend. These hopes were soon at an end; in a very little time we saw them approaching us slowly: when they drew near, we discovered too plainly the cause of this delay; they carried between their talons, stones, or rather rocks, of a prodigious size. When they came directly over our ship, they hovered, and one of them let fall the stone she held, which by the dexterity of the steerfman we evaded. But the other roc was more successful. His stone fell in the middle of the ship, which it split into a thousand pieces.

All the crew were either killed by the fall of the stone, or sunk very deep in the sea. The latter was my fate: I continued so long under water, that I was almost spent, but on regaining the surface, I found a piece of the wreck near me. I immediately got upon it, and committing myself to the mercy of the waves, I had the good fortune next day to get on shore on an island,

island, the most beautiful and fertile I had ever seen.

The whole country appeared a delicious garden, abounding with the choicest fruit trees. I refreshed myself plentifully, and afterwards resigned myself to sleep. The next day I awoke, fully recovered from my fatigue, but much grieved for the loss of my companions.

As the country was so pleasant, I resolved to penetrate further into it, in search of inhabitants. I had not advanced far, when coming to the bank of a stream, I saw a little old man who seemed to be very weak and feeble. I saluted him, which he returned by bowing his head; and making signs for me to take him on my back, and carry him over the brook. I thought he wanted assistance, and readily complied: and when on the other side, I stooped that he might get off with the greater ease: but instead of doing so, he clasped his legs nimbly about my neck. His skin appeared as impenetrable as iron: he sat

astride on my shoulders, and held me so close, that I thought he would have strangled me.

The surprise and terror of my situation, overcame me. I fainted, and fell down. Notwithstanding which, the old man continued on my shoulders. When he found I had recovered, he struck me so severely with his feet, that I was obliged to rise, and carry him where he pointed. At night he made signs to me to lay down, he continuing his hold about my neck; and in the morning, when he wished to rise, he struck me with his feet, as a signal to get up, with him on my shoulders.

In this manner I continued for a considerable time, burthened with this execrable old fellow, who never left me for a single moment. One day I found in my way some dry calabashes; I took a large one, and having cleaned it, I filled it with the juice of grapes, and set it in a convenient place. Some time after, I returned thither, and found my wine very good. I drank heartily

of

of it, which raised my spirits, and I began to sing and dance as I walked along.

The old man, perceiving what effect the wine had upon me, made signs for me to give him some. I gave him the calabash, and he was so pleased with the liquor, that he drank it all. The fumes of it presently got into his head, he became drunk, and sat with his legs much looser about me than usual. I seized the opportunity, and suddenly threw him off. He fell to the ground in a state of insensibility; and with a large stone I crushed his head to pieces.

I rejoiced extremely at my deliverance, and regaining the sea coast, I met with the crew of a ship, who had cast anchor to take in water. From them I learnt that my late situation had been more dangerous than I had thought it. 'You fell, said they, into the hands of the old man of the sea, and are the only one that ever escaped strangling by him: as he never left any he had

had once mastered, till their strength was exhausted, when he failed not to destroy them.'

The captain of the vessel received me very kindly, and readily gave me a passage to the port he was bound to. My good fortune did not forsake me. When we landed, I was permitted, through the interest of the captain, to join a body of adventurers of a singular kind. I had a large bag given me, and was advised to follow the example of my companions, and by no means to separate from them, as I valued my life.

We went together to a neighbouring forest, the trees of which were very straight and tall, and so smooth it was impossible for any man to climb them. As we drew near we saw a great number of apes, who fled from us, and climbed the trees for safety. We pelted the apes with stones, who in return threw at us cocoa nuts, which the trees bore in great plenty: and thus through the indignation of the animals, we were supplied with those valuable fruits, which our
utmost

utmost industry could not otherwise have obtained.

By diligently following this avocation, I soon got together a very considerable cargo of coconuts. I sailed with these to another port, where I exchanged them for pepper and aloes; and after some time, arrived at Balsora, very considerably enriched.

To-morrow, continued Sinbad, giving the porter his customary present, I will relate to you my next adventure.

SINBAD'S

SINBAD'S SIXTH VOYAGE.

Some time after my arrival, a few merchants, my very particular friends, agreed on a voyage; and they never ceased importuning me, till I consented to go with them.

For some time we had pleasant weather. We sailed many days without seeing land, but having a perfect reliance on our captain, we were without uneasiness. At length the ship was forced along by a strong current: the moment the captain

tain perceived it, he exclaimed, we were all lost. He immediately ordered all the sails to be set a contrary way, but in vain; the ropes broke to pieces. The ship, in spite of our utmost efforts, continued to be forced on by the current, till we came to the foot of a mountain, where she ran ashore, and was presently beat to pieces.

Most of the crew perished; the captain, two seamen, and myself only escaped: and all but me were much bruised. The captain told us that all hope of escape from this place was vain, as the current set in so strongly to the shore, that no vessel could possibly sail against it. This discourse of his afflicted us exceedingly; and indeed, what we saw, too strongly confirmed it. The whole shore was covered with wrecks of vessels, and with the bones of men, who had evidently perished there. The incredible quantity of riches with which the strand was covered, only served to aggravate our sorrows. Whether it was from this melancholy prospect, or from the
bruises

bruises they had received, I know not, but the next day the two sailors died, and the day following the captain also expired: so that I was left alone in this terrible situation.

But I had been too much used to misfortunes to despair. I began, therefore, to survey the shore, and to cast about in my mind for a possibility of relief. On examining the mountain, I soon found all hope of climbing that was in vain, for it was not only stupendously high, but in many parts absolutely perpendicular. The account of the current setting in every where to the shore, I found also to be true. I had almost given up every hope, when I discovered a rivulet of fresh water, which, instead of running into the sea, penetrated the bottom of the mountain. To this place, I, with much labour, brought pieces of the wreck, and formed a large, and strong float. Having secured this properly, I went in search of provisions. I found shell-fish in great abundance; I conveyed a large quantity of these on board my float, resolving to trust myself

self

self on it, and take the chance whither the current might convey me. Before I embarked, I collected great quantities of diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and ambergris: these I formed into bales, and fastened strongly on board my vessel, and cutting the cable, committed myself to fortune.

The stream conveyed me into a hollow passage, under the mountain which was entirely dark. I failed many days in this situation, husbanning my shell fish with great care, My food was at last exhausted; I grew faint; and insensibly fell into a deep sleep. How long it continued I knew not, but when I awoke, I found my float drawn on shore, and myself surrounded by a great number of negroes. I arose, and saluted them: they spoke to me, but I could not understand them: yet I was so transported with joy, that I repeated aloud in Arabic, 'call upon the Almighty, and he will help thee; thou needest not perplex thyself in trouble, for God can change thy bad fortune into good.'

Happily

Happily one of the negroes understood Arabic, from him I learnt, that my float having been discovered in the river, they had drawn it on shore, but finding me fast asleep, they had waited till I had awoke. He then requested that I would tell them by what accident I came into such a situation. I related my story, which the black interpreted to them. When I had finished, they desired I would suffer them to conduct me to their King, that I might relate so extraordinary an adventure to him myself. I cheerfully consented, on which they furnished me with a horse, and while some of them attended me, others contrived to convey my float and cargo after me.

I was very favourably received by the King, and thankfully accepted his invitations of reposing some time in his court, to recover my fatigue. During this time, I made a pilgrimage to the place where Adam was confined after his banishment from Paradise.

The island was called Serendib, it is exceedingly pleasant and fertile. The people were hospitable; and so just, that law-suits are unknown among them. The magnificence of the palace, and the splendor of their Prince, when he appears in public, are truly admirable. On this occasion, the King has a throne fixed on the back of an elephant; before him an officer carries a golden lance in his hand, and behind the throne there is another who supports a column of gold; the guard amount to a thousand men, all clad in silk, and cloth of gold, while the King is on his march, the officer who carries the lance, cries out occasionally, ‘behold the great monarch; the potent, and redoubtable Sultan of the Indies: whose palace is covered with an hundred thousand rubies, and who possesses twenty thousand crowns, enriched with diamonds: behold the crowned Monarch; greater than the greatest of Princes!’ after which the officer who is behind cries out, ‘this Monarch, so great, so powerful, must die, must die, must

die !'—The officer who is before, replies,
' praise be to him who liveth for ever !'

After I had continued some time in the capital, I requested the King's permission to return to my own country ; which he immediately granted, in the most obliging, and most honourable manner. He forced me to accept a very rich present ; and at the same time entrusted to my care, one of immense value, which he directed me to present with a letter * in his name to our Sovereign, the Caliph Haroun Alraschid.

Our

* The contents of the King of Serendib's letter were :

' The King of the Indies, before whom march an hundred elephants ; who lives in a palace that shines with an hundred thousand rubies, and who has in his treasury twenty thousand crowns enriched with diamonds ; to the Caliph Haroun Alraschid.

' Though the present we send you be inconsiderable, receive it, however, as a brother, and a friend ; in consideration of the hearty friendship which we bear you, and

of

Our voyage was short and pleasant. I had the honour to deliver the letter, and present of the King of Serindib to the Commander of the Faithful; after which I retired to my own dwelling, rejoicing with my friends, to whom, and to the poor, I was bountiful, and resolving to pass the rest of my days among them.

Sinbad presented the porter as before, with an hundred sequins, and desired him to attend the day following, to hear an account of his last voyage.

O 2

SINBAD'S

' of which we are willing to give you proof. We desire the
' same part in your friendship, considering that we believe
' it to be our merit, being of the same dignity with your-
' self. We conjure you this in quality of a brother.
' Adieu.'

SINBAD'S SEVENTH VOYAGE.

I had now determined to go no more to sea. My wealth was unbounded, my reputation established, my curiosity amply gratified, and my years began to require rest: so that I thought only of enjoying the fruit of my former toils and dangers. But the Caliph sending for me, told me, he had resolved to answer the letter of the King of Serendib, and to return him a present of equal value, to that which I had brought him,
and

and that he had fixed on me to be the bearer of it.

I wished much to be excused, and for that purpose, related to the Caliph the many perils I had been in. The Commander of the Faithful expressed his surprise and satisfaction at my narrative; but persisting in his desire, I cheerfully prepared to obey his commands.

As soon as the Caliph's letter * and present were ready, I set sail, and after a safe and plea-

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sant

* The Caliph's letter was as follows :

‘ Greeting, in the name of the Sovereign guide of the
‘ right way, to the potent and happy Sultan, from Abdallah
‘ Haroun Alraschid, whom God hath set in the place of
‘ honour, after his ancestors of happy memory.

‘ We received your letter with joy, and send you this
‘ from the council of our port, the garden of superior wits.
‘ We hope when you look upon it, you will find our good
‘ intention, and be pleased with it. Adieu.’

fant voyage, I arrived at the island of Serendib, and discharged my commission. The King received me in the most distinguished manner, and expressed himself much pleased with the Caliph's friendship. I staid a short time at the palace, and then reëmbarked for Balsora, but had not the good fortune to arrive there as I hoped. Providence ordered it otherwise.

Within three days of our departure, we fell in with a corsair, who took us captive, and carrying us into port, sold us all for slaves. I was bought by a wealthy merchant, who treated me very kindly. He enquired if I understood the use of the bow, and seemed much pleased, when I told him it had been one of the exercises of my youth, and that I had always delighted in it. He gave me a bow and arrow, and carried me to a vast forest. 'Climb up, said he, one of these trees. This forest abounds with elephants, as they come within bow-shot, shoot at them, and if any one falls, come and give me notice.

I continued in the tree all night. In the morning I saw many elephants, and shot at them, at last one dropt. I hastened to acquaint my patron with my success; who commended my dexterity, and caressed me very much. We returned to the forest, and buried the elephant in the earth; my patron intending to take away the teeth, when the body was decayed, to trade with.

For two months I continued to kill an elephant every day, sometimes from one tree, sometimes from another. One morning while I was looking out for them, I perceived they did not cross the forest as usual, but came in great numbers immediately towards the tree where I was. Their approach alarmed me so much, that my bow and arrows fell out of my hand: and my terror greatly encreased, when one of the largest of them wound his trunk round the body of the tree, in which I was, and pulled so strong, that he soon tore it up by the roots, and threw it on the ground. As I was falling with the tree, I
gave

gave myself up for lost; but the elephant, when I reached the earth, took me up gently, and placed me on his back. He then went at the head of his companions, into the heart of the forest, when stopping suddenly, he took hold of me with his trunk, and set me down on the ground. Immediately he, and all his companions, retired, and left me.

I had been so extremely agitated during these transactions, that it was a considerable time before I recovered the use of my faculties. When I became composed enough to look about me, I found I was upon a long and broad hill, covered all over with the bones and teeth of elephants. I could not but admire the wonderful instinct of these sagacious animals. They had perceived, no doubt, that we buried such of their companions as we killed, and afterwards opened the earth, and took away their teeth: I concluded, therefore, that they had conducted me to their burial place, that we might obtain our desires without persecuting them.

I returned to the city, and found my patron in great trouble about me. I related to him my adventure, which he would hardly believe. We set out next morning for the hill, where he soon found every thing I had told him was true. We took away with us ivory to a great value; and on our return to the city, my patron embraced me, and said, ‘ Brother, God give you all happiness! I declare before him that I give you your liberty. I will not hold in bondage, a moment longer, the man who hath so greatly enriched me.’

‘ Know now, continued he, the perilous service you have been engaged in. We buy slaves here, solely for the purpose of procuring us ivory: and notwithstanding all our care, the elephants every year kill a great many of them. You have been preserved most marvellously from their fury. Think not that by restoring you your freedom, I suppose you sufficiently rewarded; when I can procure you a vessel to convey you home, you shall find me more substantially grateful.’

P

Agreeable

Agreeable to this promise, my patron was diligent in providing me with a ship, and having met with one, he freighted it with ivory, and gave me both the vessel and cargo, we parted with mutual expressions of regard, and in a short time I returned home, with another great addition to my fortune. On my arrival at Bagdad, I waited on the Caliph, and related my adventure to him, which he heard with much pleasure. He dismissed me very graciously, and I have since devoted my time wholly to my family, kindred and friends.

Sinbad having finished the relation of his voyages, addressed himself to Hindbad thus: ‘You now know by what means I have acquired the opulence you envied me. Say, have I not gained it by dangers, more than equal to its value? and ought I not now to enjoy myself?’ The porter modestly owned the truth of Sinbad’s reasoning, adding due praises to his generosity, and prayers for his future welfare. Sinbad repeated

his present, of an hundred sequins. His liberality had raised Hindbad from his penury, and finding him worthy esteem, the generous sailor received him among the number of his intimate acquaintances.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.